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24 FEBRUARY 1987

Near East/South Asia Report



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LIBYA

FOREIGN MINISTRY SUPPORTS ALGERIAN PROPOSAL ON CHAD

LD100923 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0215 GMT 10 Jan 87

[Text] An official source at the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison made the following statement:

In line with the firm stands of the Jamahiriya regarding African liberation issues and as affirmation of its concern that a peaceful solution must be found to the Chadian problem by reaching a national reconciliation among the parties to the conflict in Chad within an African framework distanced from foreign interference. [sentence as received] The Jamahiriya has always adhered to this position since the Sabha and Benghazi meetings on 28 March 1978 in which parties to the conflict in Chad and some neighboring countries participated and which resulted in the firm agreement on national reconciliation in Chad, the implementation of which was aborted by the French forces stationed in Ndjamena at that time.

On the basis of these principles the Jamahiriya took part in the meetings of Kano and Lagos in 1979 under the supervision and auspices of the OAU and the participation of the six countries neighboring Chad. These meetings were crowned with the signing of the Lagos agreement on national reconciliation, on the basis of which the GUNT [Transitional Government of National Unity] was set up. Once again the French forces put obstacles in the way of implementing the agreement by encouraging its agent Hissein Habre, the defense minister in that government, to rebel against the GUNT on 22 March 1980, causing the GUNT to evacuate the French forces from Ndjamena in May 1980.

Out of the Jamahiriya's concern that security and stability should prevail in Chad by reaching national reconciliation among its sons without imperialist interferences, it agrees to the Algerian proposal regarding finding a solution to the Chadian problem in an African framework and under the auspices of the OAU, which was announced yesterday, Friday, 9 January 1987, by brother Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, the foreign minister of the brotherly Algerian Republic, during his visit to Paris.

While the Jamahiriya stresses its assent to the efforts made to resolve the Chadian problem peacefully, it would like to alert the African and world public that France is currently doubling the consignments of arms and ammunition and the concentration of its troops stationed on Chadian territory. Thus, she is fanning the fire of the civil war from which the Chadian people have long suffered. If we look for the causes of this civil war, we will find them mainly in the presence of French forces and their direct interference in that country's internal affairs whenever French interests called for dominating it by stifling popular revolutions aimed at liberation from France and its agents and which have been taking place successively since 1963.

/9604

CSO: 4500/57

JANA EDITOR ON ANNIVERSARY OF DRAWING 32.5 PARALLEL

LD252104 Tripoli JANA in English 1545 GMT 25 Jan 87

[Text] Tripoli, Ay Annar 25, Jamahiriya News Agency--Today coincides with the day of pride, glory and defiance... It is an eternal day in the history of the Arab nation ... The day America's nose was rubbed to the ground when the leader of the revolution boarded a boat in 1986 and for the gulf of defiance to draw the line of death...the red line...32.5 parallel asserting proudly the defiance of the Libyan Arab people to the tyranny and terrorist oppression of American imperialism.

On this day the Libyan Arab people recorded the first ever victory in the history of the Arab nation against American hostile provocations and threats. The event was witnessed by world media and newsmen recording the announcement made by the leader of the revolution that... This is the entrance to the Gulf of Sidra ... The 32.5 parallel is the red line...the line of death...To the south of this line the area is part and parcel of the Libyan Arab territory...

The editor of local affairs in JANA wrote on this occasion. He said: "This gallant defiance and great confrontation recorded for the first time in the history of the Arab nation by the Libyan Arab people against the biggest world terrorist power--American and Atlantic tyrants restored to the Arab nation its dignity and respect and prohibited the waters of the Sidra Arab Gulf to America [sentence as received] ... On this day the world witnessed the courage of this leader and his gallant defiance to the largest power on earth and for the first time in the modern history of the Arab nation an Arab leader--Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi draws the line of death to the biggest crusader power prohibiting it to enter this gulf. [Quotation marks as received]

The editor pointed out that no other country drew the line of death to super-power like America except great Jamahiriya giving a lesson to cowards and capitulationists who compromised Arab rights and a shining example to peoples fighting against America--Atlantic tyranny and terrorism...

The editor called for this occasion to be commemorated and taught to Arab children...

The editor pointed out that this great revolution which expelled five American bases and three British as well as the remnants of Italian invaders has now scored a further victory against terrorists and aggressors drawing the line of death to them in revenge to our forefathers and the dignity of the Arab nation.

The editor concluded his commentary by asserting that "On this day the Libyans have the right to be proud and stand tall, for their land was turned into a burning land and waters sinking ground to any criminal or aggressor who may attempt to undermine. [Sentence as received] [Quotation marks as received]

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CSO: 4500/57

AL-QADHDHAFI'S 'AGGRESSION' IN CHAD ASSAILED

NC132224 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 2045 GMT 13 Jan 87

[(Clandestine) "Voice of the Libyan People" program]

[Excerpts] The National Front for the Salvation of Libya has been closely watching developments in the region of the Tibesti Mountains. These have occurred as a result of Al-Qadhdhafi's decision to involve the Libyan Armed Forces in new aggressive operations on the territory of the fraternal Republic of Chad.

In view of this serious escalation of the situation, the National Front for the Salvation of Libya declares the following:

1. It strongly denounces Al-Qadhdhafi's continuing intervention in Chad's internal affairs.
2. The Libyan people harbor feelings of brotherhood and respect for the Chadian people. Therefore, we have no doubt that the entire Libyan people condemns Al-Qadhdhafi's abominable practices against the Chadian people, especially his involvement of the Libyan Armed Forces in a dirty, aggressive war against the security of the fraternal Chadian people and against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Chad.
3. The front holds Al-Qadhdhafi solely and fully responsible for the shameful consequences of this aggression and its tragedies and catastrophes.
4. The front denounces Al-Qadhdhafi's silence and his propaganda trumpets about the bloody battles taking place in the Tibesti Mountains. This is a desperate attempt to cover up his crime and conceal the grave losses which the Libyan Armed Forces have suffered.
5. Once again, we urge our heroic Libyan Armed Forces to put an end to Al-Qadhdhafi's disregard for their fate which he manifests by involving them in unsuccessful adventures and shameful battles. The overthrow of Al-Qadhdhafi's barbaric and chaotic regime has become an urgent national and popular demand. The men of the Libyan Armed Forces are capable, with God's help, of undertaking this mission to save Libya from the criminal, wicked, and despotic Al-Qadhdhafi.

Now is the time for our armed forces to realize their role and duty and direct their weapons and efforts against Al-Qadhdhafi, who is the real enemy of our Libyan people.

6. The National Front for the Salvation of Libya is fully cognizant of the new ordeal facing the Libyan and Chadian peoples at the hands of Al-Qadhdhafi. It shares the feelings of the two fraternal peoples in the face of this ordeal, and it promises them that it will carry on the struggle until the salvation of Libya is achieved, together with the overthrow of Al-Qadhdhafi's regime and what it represents in terms of chaos, barbarity, and despotism.

/9604

CSO: 4500/57

LIBYA

BRIEFS

EGYPT'S ATTENDANCE AT ICO--Kuwait, Ay Alnar 27, Jamahiriyah News Agency-- The fifth Islamic summit was held in Kuwait yesterday amid an atmosphere of gloom and desperation as regards the results to be achieved, for the treacherous Egyptian regime and those of its ilk have attended it. JANA's political editor has commented on this summit stressing that the stand of great Al-Jamahiriyah has been crystal clear since these heads of Islamic states have formerly kicked out the Egyptian regime from the Islamic conference because of its connection with the Zionist enemy and its normalization of relations with it through the traitorous Stable David accords, committing a high treason. He adds, since the Egyptian regime has indulged in treason transforming Egypt to an American colonized outpost, it should not be allowed to participate in this summit as its return is null and void. [Text] [Tripoli JANA in English 1032 GMT 27 Jan 87] /9604

AFRICAN LEADERS' VIEWS ON CHAD--Tripoli, Ay Alnar 26, Jamahiriyah News Agency--The leader of the revolution received 'Saeed Hafianah', his personal envoy to Burkina Jamahiriyah, Ghana and Benin. He informed the leader about the outcome of his meetings with the heads of those states. He explained that the heads of those states have confirmed their standing against the French interference in Chad and they consider it a flagrant interference in the internal affairs of an African state. They reaffirmed that they have not asked France to intervene in Chad and on the contrary they see the interference as an attempt to destabilize the security and stability in the African continent which will only bring tragedies and wars to the continent. These assurances from those African presidents come as a public and decisive refutation to what France--through its media--is trying to mislead the French and world public opinion that its military intervention in Chad has come on a request from African heads of states. [Text] [Tripoli JANA in English 1751 GMT 26 Jan 87] /9604

CALL FOR 'VICTORY' IN CEUTA, MELILLA--Tripoli, Ay Alnar 27, Jamahiriyah News Agency--AL ZAHF AL AKHDAR newspaper, published by the revolutionary committees yesterday said that the affirming of leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi from inside Spain itself in Al-Kanoun month of 1984 of the Arabism of both 'Ceuta' and 'Melilla' cities acted as a volcano which awakened the inhabitants of both cities and may lead to the world hearing their voice and expose the colonial practices of Spain in those two Arab cities. [sentence

as received] The newspaper pointed to the rejection of the Spanish Government to the note presented last week by Morocco regarding those two Arab cities and called for the victory of the Arab masses in both cities. [Text] [Tripoli JANA in English 0902 GMT 27 Jan 87] /9604

BANK COMPUTERIZATION--Tripoli, 31 Jan 87 (JANA)--All the great Jamahiriyyah banks have recently been equipped with modern computerized equipment that will enable them to be in direct touch with the world money markets. Reporting this, AL-MUNTINJUN magazine said that with this equipment the merchant banks in the great Jamahiriyyah will be able to keep in touch with the latest financial developments in the world such as immediate fluctuations in world currency exchange rates, interest rates, and other economic developments. [Text] [Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1130 GMT 31 Jan 87] /9604

PEOPLE'S BUREAU SECRETARY IN JAPAN--Japan has expressed its eagerness to establish good and solid relations with the great Jamahiriyyah in various fields. (Onada), director general for Middle East and Africa affairs, in the Japanese Foreign Ministry received the brother secretary of the Libyan Arab People's Bureau and chairman of the Arab and African Ambassadors Council in Tokyo. (Onada) reaffirmed his country's rejection of any pressure from any quarter in its own assessment of the international situation, international issues, and its foreign policy, in order to preserve the relations of friendship and cooperation between Libya and Japan in particular, and Arab-Japanese relations in general. He said that Japan is the most understanding of all states for the great Jamahiriyyah, despite geographical remoteness, and that Japan is eager to establish relations of friendship and cooperation with it in various domains. [Text] [Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Jan 87] /9604

PEOPLE'S CONGRESS SECRETARIES MEET--Tripoli, 28 Jan (JANA)--Secretaries of the permanent secretariat of the Arab People's Congress held a meeting this afternoon in Tripoli, during which they discussed the development of the political position in the Arab and international arenas. The secretaries' council discussed a number of political topics, including ways of implementing the resolutions of the secretariat adopted during its previous meeting in Algeria, and the formation of an Arab committee for solidarity with the Nicaraguan people. Participants in this meeting emphasized the need to raise the awareness of Arab public opinion against the implementation of the Camp David agreement. They pointed to the negative signs of the Arab situation in light of the holding of the Islamic summit conference in Kuwait and the continuation of the camps war. The council hailed the permanent secretariat resolutions that were endorsed in Algeria regarding the unity steps between the great Jamahiriyyah and Algeria, as unity is the practical [word indistinct] of all challenges facing the Arab nation. It has been agreed to set up a defense committee of the Palestinian camps in Lebanon and to establish its branches in various Arab countries. [Text] [Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1459 GMT 28 Jan 87] /9604

SOVIETS VISIT OIL CENTER--Tripoli, A'ina Annar month 20, Jamahiriyyah News Agency--The delegation from the Soviet Academy of Sciences paid a visit at noon today to the oil research center in Tripoli. The guest

delegation toured the various departments of the center listening to briefings from the center's director-general and the specialized staff on its operation and the researches it carries out in the field of oil. The Soviet delegation expressed appreciation at the scientific progress and the modern factories in the centers which reflects the care the great al Fateh revolution gives to science and scientific research especially in the field of oil. [Text] [Tripoli JANA in English 1756 GMT 20 Jan 87] /9604

LIBYAN SHIPPING FLEET--Tripoli, A'ina Annar month 20, Jamahiriya News Agency--Sources of the public national company for sea transport in great Jamahiriya stated that the Libyan Arab fleet of 24 cargo and oil vessels has been able to enter the stage of international competition. It has transported huge quantities of goods, crude and oil products from the ports of Mexico, Venezuela, India, and Indonesia apart from the North Sea ports. Those sources said that their company owns 11 oil tankers with total cargo of 1,100,000 tons, 2 horizontal cargo ships with 9,391 tons cargo capacity, 6 passenger cruisers with 800 passenger capacity each and 3,000 tons of goods. Those sources confirmed that the company will "Libyanise" 12 more ships and tankers which will be run and operated by Libyan Arab captains, engineers and sailors. Also the fleet will be strengthened by two more horizontal loading with 3,000 tons capacity each, a 7,000 ton cargo ship, a small oil tanker, a ferry and a group of new containers apart from two maintenance workshops. [Excerpts] [Tripoli JANA in English 0838 GMT 20 Jan 87] /9604

USSR GROUP LEAVES TRIPOLI--Tripoli, 24 Jan (JANA)--A delegation of the USSR Academy of Sciences left Tripoli yesterday evening after a visit to the Great Jamahiriya during which they took part in the Libyan Arab-Soviet Scientific Commission's talks and inspected the civilized accomplishments of the Libyan Arab people in all spheres achieved as a result of the effects of the Great Fatih Revolution. [Text] [Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0945 GMT 24 Jan 87] /9604

ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AGREEMENT WITH SUDAN--Khartoum, Ay Alnar 9, Jamahiriya News Agency--Great al Jamahiriya and Sudan have concluded an economic and cultural agreement that comes within the framework of the unionist steps between the two sisterly countries. The Sudanese foreign minister, on concluding this agreement, has stressed that this step together with the talks held with the secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison Bureau makes history being a step forward towards achieving an overall Arab unity. [Text] [Tripoli JANA in English 1434 GMT 9 Jan 87] /9604

CSO: 4500/57

MOROCCO

HASSAN II APPOINTS NEW OFFICIALS, RECEIVES DIPLOMATS

LD171651 Rabat MAP in English 1154 GMT 17 Jan 87

[All names as received]

[Text] Rabat, 17 Jan (MAP)--King Hassan II of Morocco Friday appointed several high ranking executives and received two Moroccan and two foreign diplomats.

The sovereign also received visiting Italian Minister of the Interior Oscar Luigi Scalfari and the Italian ambassador to the kingdom.

Hamid Boukharri was appointed governor-inspector general at the Ministry of the Interior, Ahmed Motii Becomes wali of the larger Casablanca, and Abdelkrim Laroussi governor of Agadir.

The sovereign appointed Mohamed Drief director general of the national police, Abdelaziz Laafoura, governor-director of urbanism, architecture development of national territory and environment protection, Ahmed al-Midaoui governor of Mohammedia-Zenata, Abdel-Fattah Moujahid governor director of the Casablanca urban planning agency, and Moha Rguibi governor at the Ministry of the Interior.

Col Mohamed Belhaj was appointed director of the Ministry of the Interior's staff training school.

The sovereign later received Ahmed al-Fizazi, former wali of the larger Casablanca and members of the secretariat general of the Popular Movement Party.

The sovereign received Maati Jorio and Abdeslam Znined whom he appointed respectively ambassadors to Canada and Great Britain.

The foreign diplomats received were Raymondo-Bassols, ambassador of Spain, and Kazue Yamashita, ambassador of Japan, who took leave of the sovereign at the end of their mission in Morocco. The two diplomats were decorated with the Great Alawit Throne distinction.

The sovereign also received Rachid Haddaoui and appointed him at the head of the "Caisse National du Credit Agricole."

The royal audiences were attended by Moroccan Premier Azeddine Laraki, several cabinet members and advisers to the sovereign.

MOROCCO

BRIEFS

HASSAN COMMUTES JAIL SENTENCES--The Moroccan people will tomorrow commemorate the anniversary of 11 January, the day Morocco presented its memorandum demanding independence. On the occasion, King Hassan II issued his orders granting 240 prisoners a pardon for the rest of their sentence, 65 prisoners a reduction of their sentence [not specified], 36 persons a reduction of the entire prison sentence excluding the fine, and 1 person was pardoned his prison sentence and his fine, and 11 prisoners had their life imprisonment sentences commuted to specified sentences. May God almighty protect the king. [Summary] [Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 Jan 87] /9604

CSO: 4500/57

AL-MAHDI INAUGURATES AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS

JN200828 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1715 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Excerpts] Halfa al-Dadidah, Sudan, 19 Jan (SUNA)--Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi this morning inaugurated the new grain mills of the cooperative societies in the Halfa al-Jadidah area in the Eastern Region. He was also acquainted with the progress of work in the existing mills whose production capacity totals 120 metric tons per day. The cost of establishing the new mills was \$13 million which was provided by a CSSR loan. Also today, the prime minister inaugurated a fodder factory annexed to the mills. The production capacity of the fodder factory is 8 metric tons a day and financing came from a CSSR loan.

The prime minister addressed the ceremony held on this occasion. He thanked the friendly CSSR for its contribution to the development of Sudan. He also lauded the achievements of the cooperative movement in the Halfa al-Jadidah area. In his speech, al-Mahdi voiced the government's interest in the cooperative development activity. He said the government would have preferred that cooperative activity had been the country's economic basis had it not been for certain problems that faced the cooperative movement.

The prime minister asserted that the forthcoming state budget would pay more attention to cooperation in the field of funding and planning. He said there are numerous factories which cost the state huge amounts of money without contributing anything to the economy. He pointed out that the experiment of the cooperatives union in Halfa al-Jadidah has proved to be a great success and will provide the state with 9 million pounds, an amount which previously had been spent annually to import flour. He added that the new fodder factory is a great contribution to the policy of integrated agriculture with its plant and animal components.

/9604
CSO: 4500/56

SPLA FIGURE VIEWS PREMIER'S REMARKS ON AGREEMENT

EA231921 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army
in English 1300 GMT 21 Jan 87

[Text] Major Arok Thuon Arok, member of the SPLM-SPLA Political-Military High Command and deputy chief of staff for administration and logistics, commenting on the recent statement delivered by al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, premier of the Khartoum government, during inauguration of certain installations at Halfah al-Jadidah, remarked that al-Sadiq and those around him should cease and refrain from pursuing the policies of burying heads in sand.

Major Arok was referring to the statement in which al-Sadiq claimed that he did not understand the reasons why arms were still being carried to prosecute the war against a system which he described as unsurpassed in the whole of Africa in the guaranteeing of freedoms.

In this regard Major Arok went on to say that the political, economic and social forces that led to the outbreak of the war are the very forces that have imposed its continuation under the new system. These forces, Major Arok said, have not only persisted but are currently being institutionalized by the government of the two families with the aim of widening the rift in the present conflict and continuation of the war in the hope that it will be resolved in favor of sectarianism, racism and religious bigotry.

In response to the claims by al-Sadiq al-Mahdi that his government had no equal elsewhere in the extent to which it granted freedoms, Major Arok questioned the alleged freedom granted by al-Sadiq's government by pointing out that the laws decreed by dictator Numayri, the state of emergency under which elections were held in circumstances of vote-buying, the emergency laws themselves, as well as the military pacts with foreign powers, were still all intact.

Turning to al-Sadiq's claims of military victories scored in War Zone One, Major Arok pointed out that ever since the war broke out in 1983 the Khartoum government has been announcing through their media that their forces have killed and defeated the outlaws whose remnants they were pursuing. At this junction Major Arok said that, if those claims and allegations by Khartoum that life had returned to normality were true, then the Khartoum government would have scored a brilliant military victory by the end of 1983, thereby bringing back life to normal.

However, Major Arok added, nothing of that sort had happened. Meanwhile, the lies of the Khartoum government and its lack of credibility have now been exposed to the people, who should now take caution and prepare themselves to overcome the conspiracy and the promotion of discord being led by al-Sadiq al-Mahdi.

Commenting on the abuses by al-Sadiq that those who carried arms were only Sudanese by their presence but not Sudanese at hearts and minds, Major Arok pointed out that the same expressions had been used by Jaf'ar Numayri at the end of 1984. This, Major Arok went on to say, was suggestive of the unity of strategy and outlook between al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and Jaf'ar Numayri and that if at all there were differences, then this did not go beyond differences in style and tactics.

On the open appeal made by al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to those whom al-Sadiq called holders of the gun to come and agree with him on one (?word), Major Arok said that although al-Sadiq was now talking the language of peace which had been agreed upon at Koka Dam, it is worth recalling that it was al-Sadiq who had announced in August last year that his government was absolved from all agreements with the SPLM-SPLA. In this regard, Major Arok stressed that no agreement had been reached with the al-Sadiq government but that an agreement had been concluded with the National Alliance for National Salvation.

Major Arok concluded by saying that if al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is now beckoning to SPLM-SPLA to come and agree with him, then the SPLM-SPLA would like to tell al-Sadiq to go back to the Koka Dam declaration, so that we could all together complete the remaining part in the march towards peace.

/9604
CSO: 4500/56

BRIEFS

'ENEMY' SOLDIERS KILLED--SPLA units of (?Mvolo) task force, under overall command of Lieutenant Colonel Bona Abang Dhol and under direct command of First Lieutenant Bol Akot Bol, carried out a successful shelling of enemy positions in (Yeiri) early this month. A correspondent for Radio SPLA in the area says that 23 enemy soldiers were killed in the shelling and several others sustained injuries. [Excerpt] [(Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 24 Jan 87] /9604

SPLA FORCES ATTACK GARRISON--SPLA forces around Akobo, under overall command of Lieutenant Colonel Peter Fanon (Pany Ping), have conducted two raids on Akobo enemy garrison this month. According to our correspondent in the area, the two raids, one on 5 January and the other on 14 January 1987, inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy in both men and material. Five houses in the enemy garrison were gutted by shellfire and the occupants were either killed or wounded. [Excerpt] [(Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 23 Jan 87] /9604

LIBYAN AID CONVOY ARRIVES--Al-Fashir, Sudan, 24 Jan (SUNA)--A Libyan convoy comprising 63 trucks loaded with relief supplies, oil products, medicines, medical equipment, school equipment, and digging equipment for the Darfur Region, west of Sudan, arrived here this morning. A reception ceremony was held for the convoy outside al-Fashir, in which Dr 'Abd al-Nabi 'Ali Ahmad, the Darfur Region's governor, participated. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 24 Jan 87] /9604

AID FROM EGYPT, FRG--Khartoum, 27 Jan (SUNA)--Egypt will provide Sudan with raw materials at 30 million account dollars within the context of the countries, Minister of Industry Mubarak al-Fadil al-Mahdi said. The minister also said that his ministry received 10 million dollars from the German aid programme for availing the industrial production inputs. He referred to the hard currency control committee which he said provides 2 million dollars weekly for the industrial production inputs. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English 1725 GMT 27 Jan 87] /9604

STUDENTS TO LIBYAN UNIVERSITIES--Khartoum, 18 Jan (SUNA)--The first batch of the Sudanese [students will leave for] Tripoli next Saturday. The decision was taken following a meeting between Education Minister Bakri Ahmad Adil and Libyan Secretary General of Popular Committee for Education and Scientific Research (Minister) Ahmad Muhammad Ibrahim who is currently on a several-day official visit to the Sudan. The meeting also agreed on the establishment of Kordofan University (Western Sudan). Libya also agreed to construct a number of technical schools in Kordofan and Dar Fur Regions besides contribution in the ongoing campaign of rehabilitation and maintenance of schools. The Education Ministry has likewise to admit Libyan teachers and students in Sudan training institutes. [Text]
[Khartoum SUNA in English 0925 GMT 18 Jan 87] /9604

CSO: 4500/56

GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO UNIFY TRADE UNION RANKS REPORTED

Tunis DIALOGUE in French 22 Dec 86 p 19

[Text] On Friday 19 December in the party hall, a meeting was held in which the UGTT executive bureau members and former union officials took part, as did PSD Leader Hedi Baccouche, and Social Affairs Minister Abdelaziz Ben Dhia. This meeting brought to a conclusion the efforts made both by the government and party, and also by union officials, regardless of political loyalties, to create the objective conditions necessary to achieve the success of the next trade union congress and ensure that it would be an historic turning point in union life.

This meeting published a communique, the text of which is as follows:

"In response to the historic appeal of Supreme Commander Habib Bourguiba to trade unionists, exhorting them to close ranks the better to serve the national interest, fulfill the noble task for which Farhat Hached sacrificed himself, and prepare for the extraordinary congress of the UGTT whose goal is the effective reunification of all workers in their organization regardless of personal leanings, it was decided that":

1) "The executive bureau of the associated trade unions will be made up of the following members":

Abdelaziz Bouraoui: secretary general
Sadok Allouch: assistant secretary general
Ali Lachaal: assistant secretary general
Habib Ben Achour: assistant secretary general
Hassan Hamoudia: assistant secretary general
Mustapha Kanzari: assistant secretary general
Khaiereddine Salhi: assistant secretary general
Belgacem Hmaidi: assistant secretary general
Khliifa Abid: assistant secretary general
Moncef Kmar: assistant secretary general
Abdessattar Chennaoui: assistant secretary general
Mustapha Gharbi: assistant secretary general

2) "A committee will be created made up of executive bureau members and other unionists known for their activism in the trade union movement. Their

task will be to draw up a union charter reflecting a modern conception of trade union activity in a developing country; a charter linking the rights of workers to their duties, immediate to long-term interests, enabling the laboring masses to participate side by side with the other social categories of which the nation is composed in the effort to develop the country."

3) "Elections to renew grass roots unions will be organized under healthy democratic conditions."

9824

CSO: 4519/56

TRADE, FINANCIAL AGREEMENTS WITH EEC DISCUSSED

Tunis DIALOGUE in French 29 Dec 86 pp 25, 26

[Article: Goals and Methods for the Next 5 Years"]

[Text] Relations between Tunisia and the European Economic Community (EEC) continue to develop in a positive way, as shown by the recent agreement in principle on the new financial accord which benefits Tunisia.

Thus, following the visit to Brussels this month of the Tunisian minister of planning and finances, the way was open to conclude this agreement which will define the EEC's financial assistance and its goals and methods over the next 5 years, corresponding, moreover, to the period of execution of the seventh 1987-1991 plan.

With this new step, Tunisia took fifth place among Mediterranean countries that have signed the agreement with the EEC which partially revises the trade system, taking into account the expansion of the EEC to include Spain and Portugal.

The next stage will deal with the definition of the new financial agreement between Tunisia and the EEC.

In this regard, Tunisia, which is currently making organizational adjustments to ensure the recovery of its economy and finances in this crucial phase, wants a considerable increase in funds allocated by the EEC. It believes that a 250 to 300 million crown package would be satisfactory (139 million crowns for the preceding period).

From the commission's point of view, without confirming these figures, it is observed that the Tunisian demands are much higher than what the EEC would be ready to grant.

But apart from the amount of this new financial agreement, Tunisia and the EEC need to explore additional means of cooperation to sustain the effort being made by the Tunisian government to ensure self-sufficiency in food, and to promote small- and medium-size industrial companies. Moreover, considering the difficult circumstances affecting Tunisia at present, it is essential to develop other forms of cooperation, especially in the areas of industry,

technology, agriculture, and trade, in order to achieve greater development in trade and, among other things, to promote private investment.

In this context, furthermore, the minister of planning and finances discussed Tunisian development and cooperation programs with EEC commission officials during his recent visit to Brussels.

Textiles: New Horizons

While awaiting the conclusion of the financial agreement, Tunisia has already signed an accord with the EEC in the area of textiles. The accord, which covers a period of 3 years (1987, 1988, 1989) is notable for the improvement in flexible terms and the introduction of annual growth rates. In addition to its positive outlook on the future of cooperation between the two parties, the accord in question makes it possible to provide guarantees for businessmen on both sides and to improve trade flow in both directions. Thus this arrangement for textile products will open new horizons for our country enabling us to sell goods on the EEC market with fewer restrictions. As a result, Tunisian textile exports will no longer be subject to the restrictive allocation system or the annual quota during the next 3 years, with the exception of two products considered sensitive, namely 100 percent cotton fabric, and pants. Moreover, for the last two products, the agreement provided a system for increasing the level of control, as follows:

--For 100 percent cotton fabric, the specified quota allows for 11,783 metric tons in 1987 with an increase in the quota for Italy (1,050 metric tons).

--For pants, the specified quota permits 31,831 million units including 43.7 percent totally produced in Tunisia (using locally produced fabric) and 56.3 percent TPP [no expansion given] (the fabric is not the property of the maker, but belongs to the European company placing the order).

But in a general way, according to the terms of the agreement the EEC will free up imports of shirts and sweat shirts, and there will be an improvement in flexible conditions. In addition to the flexible conditions now in force--anticipation of the next year's quota, carry-over from the preceding year to the following year, intercategory transfer, and the transfer from products entirely produced locally to the TPP system--the agreement allows for interregional flexibility. To this end, flexibility was set at 2 percent in 1987, 4 percent in 1988, and 8 percent in 1989.

By way of example, in 1987 one can take 2 percent from a country and export to another community market. The principle of flexibility affects pants also, since the agreement permits the conversion of three adult pairs of pants into five pairs for children and vice versa. In an indirect way, this simple formula may favor an increase of the quota: for example, a company may export to the EEC 1,670 pairs of children's pants instead of 1,000 pairs of pants for adults (quota).

The agreement also includes the principle of an annual growth rate, and this rate was set at 3.5 percent annually for 100 percent cotton fabric (category 2); for pants (category 6) the annual growth rate was set at 5 percent for

products entirely produced locally and 7.5 percent for those under the TPP system.

Certainly, the annual growth rates that were determined are such as to promote an increasingly productive flow of trade between the two parties, and to provide guarantees for businessmen on both sides. And in general terms, the arrangement between Tunisia and the EEC on textiles allows for greater export freedom that benefits Tunisia.

9824

CSO: 4519/56

BRIEFS

MZALI SENTENCED--On 24 December, Mohamed Ben Chaabane Mzali was sentenced by default to 3 years in prison (with the sentences running concurrently) by the sixth court of summary jurisdiction under presiding judge Taieb Ben Abid. The main charges made against Mzali were: defamation and injurious attacks on the president of the republic and the Tunisian government. Through the foreign press, radio and television, Mzali had criticized the political regime of the Tunisian state and its judicial system (Item No 1873) expressing his disagreement with the imprisonment of Habib Achour and Rifaat Dali. The prosecuting magistrate instituted judicial proceedings against Mzali, and the leading attorney for the presiding judges, Hassan Ben Fleh, submitted the files in question to the court as well as the fact that the accused had fled. [Text] [Tunis LE TEMPS in French 26 Dec 86 p 2] 9824

SOCIALIST DEMOCRAT CONFERENCE RESULTS--The proceedings of the second congress of the Socialist Democrat Movement ended yesterday at dawn at the Labor Exchange with the adoption of the resolutions and the election of the secretary general and the new National Council. The latter met and proceeded with the election of the movement's political bureau. During a meeting with the press organized late yesterday morning, MDS officials reported the findings of the proceedings of the second congress which was held 3 years after the first one, almost to the day. At the conclusion of their work, the congress participants discussed and adopted three reports and 12 motions (8 on foreign policy, 1 on culture, 1 on the UGTT, and 1 on unified manpower). The National Council is constituted on the basis of two delegates for each regional federation with the exception of those in Siliana and Zaghouan which will only be represented by their secretaries general since they are at a very early stage of their development. The National Council numbers 60 members. There were 88 congressional members running as candidates. The National Council met to elect the movement's secretary general. The sole candidate was Ahmed Mestiri who was reelected to the position. The organization also elected the new political bureau. There were 19 candidates running for 14 positions including that of secretary general. The 13 members elected included 6 from the previous bureau who were reelected: Mustapha Ben Jaafar, Mohamed Moada, Ismail Boulahia, Dali Jazi, Abdessatar El Ajmi, and Omar Ben Mahmoud. The 6 newly elected were Khemais Chammari, Yahia Bouderbala, Abdelwahab Bahri, Mohamed Ali Khalfallah, Taieb Mohseni, Ammar El Hamdi, and Mohamed Barkia. [Text] [Tunis LE TEMPS in French 30 Dec 86 p 3] 9824

DELEGATION VISITS TRIPOLI--Last Thursday, the Tunisian delegation made up of experts from the Ministry of Social Affairs and officials in charge of

cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs returned from Tripoli. Accompanied by a representative of the BIT (International Labor Office), the Tunisian delegation spent 5 days defending the compensation claim for the approximately 30,000 Tunisian workers who were expelled at the end of 1985 from Libya, at an estimated cost of 150 million dinars. It was stated in Tunis that concrete propositions were submitted by the Tunisian party to the Libyan authorities. The Libyan press agency JANA, which reported the mission to Tripoli of the Tunisian experts, noted that the visit was part of an effort to improve relations between the two countries. It was also recalled that these negotiations were begun in September 1986 in Geneva under the sponsorship of the International Labor Office to settle the financial dispute between the two countries; the latter broke off relations 15 months ago. [Text] [Tunis LE TEMPS in French 22 Dec 86 p 17] 9824

ACHOUR'S PARDON EXPECTED--Some Tunisian circles expect President Bourguiba to issue a pardon for Habib Achour who was sentenced to 4 years in jail on the charge of misuse of public property. This property belongs to the UGTT (Tunisian General Federation of Labor) which Achour had led. AL-MAJALLAH has learned that the impetus for the Tunisian president's expected initiative is due to the intensive efforts made by a group of opposition politicians residing in France, such as Mohamed Masmoudi, Driss Guiga, and others. They advised the release of Achour because of his poor health. They stated that his release would tend to have a calming effect, help solve some existing problems, and open a dialogue between opposition leaders abroad and the government. Those close to the president believe that the request for Achour's pardon must come from the trade-unionists themselves and not from opposition leaders abroad. [Text] [London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 14-20 Jan 87 p 8] /9738

BOURGUIBA PARDONS PRISONERS--President Habib Bourguiba received today Mohamed Salah Ayari, the minister of justice, and Hachemi Zarnad, the republic's general attorney, in the presence of Rachid Sfar, Mohamed Skhiri and Zine el Abidine Ben Ali. Mohamed Salah Ayari stated that he had briefed his excellency the president on the activities of his ministry and its functioning and that the supreme combatant has kindly pardoned 1214 prisoners by commuting the terms of some and repudiating the terms of others. [Excerpt] [Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Jan 87] /9604

UGTT EXECUTIVE BUREAU--The Tunisian General Labor Federation's extraordinary conference which ended last night elected the following as members of its new Executive Bureau: Abdelaziz Bouraoui, Ali Lachal, Khaieddin Salhi, Abdesattar Elchinaoui, Sadok Allouch, Habib Ben Achour, Moustafa Kenzari, Elmoncif Gmar, Khalifa Oubeid, Mohamed Elalini, Belkacem Elhumaydi, Abdul Rezak Ghourbal, Hassan Hmoudiya. [Summary] [Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Jan 87] /9604

UGTT COMMITTEE PROPOSES CHANGES--The extraordinary conference of the Tunisian General Federation of Labor [UGTT] held its final session yesterday evening at the Palace of Conferences in Tunis, the first part of which was allocated to the reading of and the discussing of the conference's four committees' reports. The participants discussed the constitution committee's report which introduced a number of amendments to the union's constitution, in particular to the exercising of the right to strike. The new proposed chapter regarding this stipulates that the

excercising of this right must be resorted to only after all means of dialogue have been exhausted, only after the endorsement of a majority of trade union organization members and after the approval of the UGTT's executive committee. After a long debate the participants endorsed by a majority vote the union's constitution in its new form. [Excerpt] [Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 21 Jan 87] /9604

CSO: 4500/50

WESTERN SAHARA

POLISARIO LEADER CHARGES SPAIN WITH SELLING WEAPONS TO MOROCCO

Madrid MUNDO OBRERO in Spanish 27 Nov 86 pp 48-49

[Interview with Mohamed Sidati, Polisario Politburo Member in Charge of Foreign Relations with Europe, by Carmen Monzon]

[Text] Mohamed Sidati is a member of the Political Bureau of the Polisario Front [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el Hamra and Rio de Oro] and is in charge of foreign relations in Europe. Just 11 years after the signing of the Madrid tripartite treaties, which Sidati describes as "sadly remembered," he reviews the situation ever since the Franco government sold its former colony in the Western Sahara to Morocco and Mauritania.

These agreements were still-born but also died on the battlefield. The signatory parties are currently not in a position to bring them back to life. One of them, Mauritania, has withdrawn and the other country ignored them and betrayed them by invading the rest of the territory. They were signed by a fascist government which in itself was unlawful and therefore all governments that followed it cannot assume the right of bringing those accords back to life. Unable to denounce those accords, the democratic forces at least had the decency not to refer to them.

[Question] What is your opinion on the performance of the current Spanish government?

[Answer] A government, such as this one, which at a certain moment did not have the courage to order the embargo on the sale of arms to Morocco, is not only trying to revive the corpse of the agreements but is going further. First of all, we have the sale of weapons to Morocco and talking about that also implies talking about cooperation at other levels involved in this fact which only strengthens the bonds with the occupying power. In our opinion, Morocco wanted to confront Spain with an irreversible situation by drawing it into the genocide of the Saharan people and Hassan's troops are today fighting with Spanish weapons. Second, relations between the Polisario Front and Spain have continued to be at the mercy of any incident that might be taken as to a pretext for degrading those relations and this explains the reaction of the Spanish government to the fishing incidents along our coast.

[Question] What can the Polisario Front currently expect from relations with the Spanish government?

[Answer] Relations have become weaker; nobody would have thought that one could reach this low point with a government that says it is socialist. I would say that there are certain contacts today but it would be necessary to find out whether those contacts are or are not constant and whether there is the intention to resolve all difficulties behind them. On the part of the Polisario Front, I can say that there is a total readiness for dialog but, unfortunately, there is no desire and there is no sufficient readiness on the Spanish side to reach an objective, such as the normalization of relations.

[Question] What is the analysis of the Polisario Front regarding relations between the Spanish government and Morocco?

[Answer] Moving side by side with Morocco means falling in line with its blackmail and, indeed, the question of Ceuta and Melilla in our opinion is the tool which Rabat is using to maintain tension and uncertainty between the Saharan people and Spain. I would say that the socialist administration bears an even graver responsibility. It should not only have tried to repair the injustice committed against our people by the multiple bonds that unite us but it should also have considered Spain's interests in the area which are not only in Morocco. I would say that they are making a mistake in their international policy; Spain must have a conversation partner in the region of Northwest Africa other than just Rabat. This is important because of its location, because of its operational proximity, in other words, the Canary Islands, the Atlantic, so that Spain should be interested in maintaining balanced relations with all peoples in the area and that is a geopolitical issue.

[Question] What is the military situation right now?

[Answer] After the defeat of the mobile warfare strategy adopted by Morocco, its entire strategy has been defensive; it has been based on the construction of walls whose objective is to protect the army of Morocco against the attacks by Polisario and to save manpower and equipment; in the end, the idea is to avoid problems of logistics. The other objective was to turn the situation around in the military field because this influences the diplomatic and political field; the idea was to control all of the territory and thus to crush the resistance. The policy of walls--which began thanks to assistance from France and the United States--is something we are studying very carefully and we say that we are launching a long-term war of attrition which has already begun to yield fruits. The wall has become an enormous source of waste for Morocco; something like 40 percent of the country's budget goes to the war second, this strategy forces its troops to be in the sand of the Western Sahara with all that this implies in terms of unit morale. According to information obtained from our pilots and boats, Morocco does not have control over the territory.

[Question] After the breakup of the agreement signed between Libya and the government of Morocco, was there any change in relations between the Polisario Front and the government in Tripoli?

[Answer] I would simply say that, when Libya signed its alliance with Morocco, an element of destabilization was created in the area. This is a fact which nobody can overlook. This is so above all because that policy of axes is very harmful to the area. Ever since 1983, Libya has been cutting its military and humanitarian aid to Polisario; almost nobody remembers that Libya gave milk to the Saharan children. Following the break between Morocco and Libya, we always maintained our mission, we tried to maintain our relations with that country, but Tripoli's attitude continues to be the same; there has been no resumption of military aid. But I must say that our political relationships have never been interrupted. In this region, the alliance with Morocco was a negative element of destabilization as regards the balance of forces.

[Question] What is the situation about the OAU proposal for the solution to the conflict?

[Answer] The idea was to reduce the problem of the Western Sahara to a referendum but that is not the right way to do it. We think that this is a problem of decolonization, in other words, self-determination. The OAU, the UN, the Movement of Nonaligned Countries, and we are ourselves, who accept it, propose a free referendum with certain conditions and with a very specific form. This would not be influenced by the negotiations between the Polisario Front and Morocco; this is what the international organizations I mentioned really wanted; but Morocco rejected negotiations since, in its opinion, this presupposed recognition of the Polisario Front; besides, it did not agree with the terms, such as the cease-fire and other questions having to do with administration. Morocco rejects negotiations because it claims that is is maintaining its occupation; what it proposes is a parody of a referendum, a sham to legalize its occupation. We suggested another option if they do not want to negotiate: let Morocco withdraw its troops to permit a fair and free referendum because our people cannot freely express themselves in the face of bayonets and tanks and an infiltrated administration.

[Question] Spain voted in favor of the resolution you mentioned in the United Nations. What is your opinion of that gesture?

[Answer] I have to admit that Spain's vote in the UN was positive but it can be really positive only if it is not accompanied by the sale of weapons which are going to be used against the Saharan people. Some democratic organizations of the Spanish people gave evidence of their uninterrupted solidarity and one of them was the PCE [Spanish Communist Party].

5058
CSO: 4548/1

CONTENT OF ARABIC RADIO BROADCASTS DISCUSSED

Damascus JAYSH AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Dec 86 p 9

[Article by Khalid 'Abd-al-Qadir: "Enemy Radio and the Psychological War"]

[Text] The Arabic-language Voice of Israel radio was established after the founding of the racist Zionist entity in Palestine in 1948, with the supervision of experts in psychology and Arab affairs, to begin its hostile functions against the Arab people for the implementation of international Zionist-imperialist goals.

The hostile methods used by the racist Zionist entity against the Arabs are many and obvious to all Arabs. Among these methods are the various sorts of Israeli political, military, and psychological deterrence aimed at causing an opponent, through political pressure, psychological compulsion, and control by threat of the use of force, to change his political, ideological, and military positions, or to change his convictions and yield and submit to the convictions of the enemy. The enemy tries to sow the concept of Israeli deterrent force in the mind of the Arab people, using the Zionist imperialist reactionary Arabic media. The Arabic-language Voice of Israel radio is the principal means of carrying out this hostile policy.

This radio station began 38 years ago to broadcast many programs, some political, some social, and some artistic in various areas, carefully planned with great skill and under the supervision of psychologists specializing in the preparation of programs that would be appropriate to the psychological life of each phase of the Arab-Israeli struggle, in order to serve the goals and policy of the Zionist leaders in the Arab region. Among the most prominent of these hostile programs are: the program that is broadcast every noon, "With Youth"; the program, "Political Diary," prepared and presented by the Zionist, Sha'ul Menasheh; the program, "With the Arab Press," as well as a large variety of other programs of political, social, artistic, and other character.

All the programs prepared by this enemy radio station try hard to denigrate Arabic thought, falsify the truth, and twist facts and realities in the interest of the Zionist entity, citing the words of those who have capitulated and events that serve Zionism, in order to control the listener to these programs and hence to control the land. The station tries hard and openly to

build an impenetrable wall between citizens and their leaders, out of a desire to deflect the struggle from its correct direction and to make it a power struggle, removing from the citizen's mind any idea of aiming the rifle at the Zionist entity, and aiming next at weakening the ability of the Arab states to defend themselves. It also uses various methods of fostering disunity and sowing hatred between Arab brothers, so as to distract the people from Palestine, their primary issue, and shake the Arabs' confidence in their ability to bear any responsibility in the struggle, absorb modern technology, and engage in creation and invention.

The enemy leaders do not hide these methods of theirs which appear clearly in the pronouncements of the officials of their radio station. These pronouncements reveal the depth of their hatred and hostility toward the Arabs. In an interview that the Hebrew-language station conducted with him, Edmond Suhayq, director of Arabic broadcasting at the Voice of Israel, confessed: "There is a special department called 'the general political relations department.' It prepares programs and political discussions to reflect the viewpoints of the Israeli government. This department includes specialists in psychology and Arab affairs. Its function is to prepare political programs and commentaries in a way that appears positive and fair, so as to influence Arab listeners, erode their self-confidence, and incite them against their values, beliefs, and even their governments." He added: "We are in a state of war with the Arabs. The one tool that enables us to reach every Arab home is the Arabic-language broadcast of the Voice of Israel."

Thus we clearly see the hostile dimensions of Zionist policy as revealed through the Arabic-language Israeli radio, with all the hatred and misleading that it practices against the Arabs in order to influence morale and exert psychological pressure on Arab citizens and to exploit unsuspecting Arab listeners in an attempt to establish the idea of Zionist superiority in all fields. However, the increase of consciousness on the part of the Arab masses has made the Zionists miss their goals and will make them miss the realization of any goal of theirs in the future.

12937
CSO: 4404/193

FINANCE MINISTER ADDRESSES NEWS CONFERENCE

LD232237 Kuwait KUNA in English 2145 GMT 23 Jan 87

[Text] Kuwait, 23 Jan (KUNA)--Kuwait's Minister of Finance Jasim al-Kharafi said tonight there is tendency to merge or cancel a number of institutions stemming from the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) following a study into the worthiness of these bodies.

The ministers told a news conference the Economic and Finance Committee of OIC agreed on being noncommittal on establishing any new centers or bodies affiliated to organization.

Improving the present status of existing committees was also agreed on, the minister added.

He explained that the reason for scrutinizing the worthiness of the committees was to make the best use of them.

Al-Kharafi pointed out that the benefit and usefulness of the committees falls in the forefront of priorities.

Al-Kharafi said the agenda of the Islamic summit does not include a plan to reconstruct the damages incurred by the war in Iraq and Iran.

However, he noted that all members of the organization were eager to see an end to this war, and expressed "great hopes that an end to this war would be near."

Al-Kharafi said the committee endorsed Egypt's decision not to pay her dues in arrear as a result of the suspension in membership for 8 years, owing to Egypt's peace agreement with Israel in 1979.

Al-Kharafi said the budget for 1986-87 has been approved and is estimated at 7.9 million dollars, in addition to the budget of seven centers and various committees.

He encouraged inter-trade between Islamic countries as a means of consolidating relations among member states of the organization.

Al-Kharafi said the market in the field of petro chemicals was promising and urged Islamic states to cooperate in that sector.

He said the agenda does not include a proposal for creating an Islamic common market.

/9604

CSO: 4400/129

KUWAIT

BRIEFS

INFILTRATORS, HASHISH SEIZED--Kuwait security forces foiled an infiltration attempt a few days ago and arrested 20 people aboard a boat that came from Iran's Boushehr port. Meanwhile, Shuwaikh port security men seized over two kilos of hashish from two foreign workers aboard a ship anchored at Shuwaikh port. Detectives at the port suspected one of the two men because he was repeatedly going and coming from the ship. Investigations revealed that the man was trying to sell hashish and the security men then boarded the ship and arrested the men. [Text] [Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 10 Jan 87 p 4] /9317

CSO: 5300/4523

LEBANON

BRIEFS

RELIGIOUS FIGURE ARRESTED--Nicosia--Information arriving in Nicosia from Beirut indicates that the Syrian intelligence authorities last Sunday evening had the audacity to arrest the well-known religious figure Shaykh Sharif Zahir, who was transported to prison in 'Anjar. The information also indicated that the above-mentioned shaykh was subjected to torture because he is accused of cooperating with elements hostile to the Syrian regime. [Text] [Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 15 Jan 87 p 11] /6091

CSO: 4404/200

DENMARK PROPOSES HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL PLAN

Foreign Minister Visits

Muscat TIMES OF OMAN in English 15 Jan 87 p 5

[Text]

Denmark has offered to prepare a master environment plan to help solve the Sultanate's waste problems.

Visiting Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Elleemann-Jensen said he told His Majesty Sultan Qaboos during an audience on Thursday that the plan would cover solid and hazardous wastes drawing from his country's knowledge and experience.

"We are ready to pay for the plan if the Sultanate is interested," Mr Elleemann-Jensen said. The Danish Environment Minister had submitted details to the Omani Government two weeks ago.

The proposal calls for the plan to be prepared on the basis of studies to be conducted in Oman by experts from the Danish state environment authority and two Danish firms at their own cost.

His Majesty was "very interested" and promised to look into it, the Minister said.

Mr Elleemann-Jensen said the Danish offer was not prompted by philanthropic considerations but by business.

The environment being a serious political issue in Denmark, considerable resources were spent on its protection, he said adding: "This has given us a lot of experience which we would like to share with others while at the same time doing business in that sector."

Interest

He said his tour of the Capital Area had led him to congratulate His Majesty for protecting the environment to a degree that is unusual in an international comparison in the midst of tremendous development during the past 16 years.

His Majesty told him of his deep personal interest in environmental issues, Mr Elleemann-Jensen said.

The Minister, said his country could help in several other fields, particularly agriculture and fisheries.

Danish fisheries expertise, he said, was backed by a fishing tradition going back to the Viking days. In agriculture, he felt assistance could cover basics such as soil care, seeds, fertilisers and fodder.

The trade team headed by the Minister represented firms dealing in a range of goods and services, including water desalination, power cables, telecommunications, engineering consultancy services, agricultural equipment and fodder, training equipment and investments.

The Iran-Iraq war dominated the political talks Mr Elleemann-Jensen had with His Majesty and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdallah on Thursday.

Appeal

"They made a strong appeal that the international community should do everything possible to end the war," the Minister said.

Describing the war as "one of the most terrible we have seen," Mr Elleemann-Jensen went on to say: "It is on par with the world wars we have twice seen this century, if you look at the human suffering and the terrible losses of life."

Asked if Denmark would take an initiative in ending it, the Minister replied in the negative, but hastened to say that "every country, big and small, should add its voice to the request for peace."

With Denmark assuming the European Community's Presidency later this year he said it would have the responsibility of placing the war on the agenda of the community's European Political Co-operation group.

Mr Elleemann-Jensen said his talks with His Majesty and Mr Abdallah also covered the Middle East problems and aspects of the international situation, including developments in the oil sector, besides economic co-operation between Denmark and Oman.

He praised what he called the well-balanced and moderate position of the Sultanate on Middle East issues and said it was similar to the position held by Denmark on those issues.

Mr Abdallah hosted a dinner for the visiting Minister and his delegation at the Ghubrah Guest House on Thursday

night.

During the four-day visit the mission had a crowded schedule.

The Minister met members of the Danish community in Oman at a reception at the residence of Hans Hugo

From, Vice-Consul and Commercial Attaché of the Danish embassy.

A dinner was hosted in his honour at the Al Bustan Palace Hotel by Haji Ali Sultan.

Closer Links With Denmark Foreseen

Muscat TIMES OF OMAN in English 15 Jan 87 p 3

[Text] Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Elleemann-Jensen left here at the end of a five-day official visit during which he was received by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos and had talks with senior Omani officials on ways of boosting relations.

He was seen off at the airport by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdallah and Ministry officials.

Prior to his departure the Danish Minister told a press conference that his visit has opened new horizons for closer co-operation between the two countries pointing out that bilateral relations were steadily growing mainly in political, economic and cultural fields.

He also said that his talks with Mr Abdallah dealt with a number of regional and global issues including the Iraq-Iran war and the Middle East conflict noting that view points of the two sides were close.

He also said that as long as the directly involved parties on the Arab side cannot reach a common position it would be impossible for any outsiders such as Europe to play a role in the peace process.

On reports claiming Danish involvement in US arms sales to Iran the Minister said that Denmark has never sold any arms to Iran or Iraq but admitted that some ships owned by Danes seem to have been involved in arms transport to both Iran and Iraq.

The Danish Minister extended an invitation to his Omani counterpart to visit Denmark.

Readiness

The Danish Minister also said that the 25-member trade delegation which accompanied him had talks with Omani officials at various Ministries, organisations and companies aimed at boosting economic cooperation between Denmark and the Sultanate.

Mr Elleemann-Jensen expressed his country's readiness to help Oman develop its agricultural and fisheries resources.

On the Iraq-Iran war the Minister appealed to the two warring countries to cease the killing and start talking noting that if the war continues both countries would certainly be losers.

On the Arab-Israeli conflict the Danish Minister said that his country supported the UN resolution on the subject. He also said that the European position was basically aimed at achieving security for all countries and justice for all people.

Conference

On the proposed Middle East international peace conference Mr Ellemann-Jensen said that it might be a good idea only if all directly involved countries are ready to participate in such a conference. Otherwise, he added, we would run the risk of raising false expectation thereby causing new frustrations and delay of the peace process.

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CSO: 4400/127

JOINT COMMISSION TO PROMOTE COOPERATION WITH ITALY

Muscat TIMES OF OMAN in English 22 Jan 87 p 3

[Article by Muzaffar Mohammad]

[Text]

Italy and the Sultanate are to set up a joint commission to promote cooperation in technology and industrial and cultural fields.

The commission, to be headed by the Under Secretaries of Foreign Affairs in the two countries, will be created following the signing of three cooperation agreements between them in March in Rome during a visit of Oman's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdallah.

This was stated by the Italian Under Secretary of Foreign Affairs Mr. Bruno Corti while addressing a press conference at Ghubra Guest House on Sunday. He was accompanied at the conference by Mohammad bin Yousuf al Zarriafi, Deputy Chief of European Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Italian Under Secretary said that the agreement in principle on signing cooperation accords was reached during his talks with senior Omani officials at different ministries.

The joint commission, he said would meet every year to review the progress made in cooperation in various fields and will explore the possibility of setting up joint ventures between the two countries.

Mr Corti disclosed that during his talks at the Ministries of Finance and Economic Affairs and Commerce and Industry the two sides discussed the possibility of Italian participation in projects included in Oman's third Five Year Plan mainly in light industry, agriculture and fisheries.

The two countries, he said, also discussed the possibility of signing an investment agreement between them.

On the cultural side Mr Corti who visited Sultan Qaboos University said he has been greatly impressed by the university and has offered to sign a "twin" accord between Sultan Qaboos University—the newest university in the World—and the Belonian University—an ancient university in Italy.

Italy will also help Oman in archaeological excavations and the restoration of ancient documents.

Talking about the international scene, Mr. Corti said his country has always supported the cause of the Palestinians based on the right of self determination.

On the Iraq-Iran war he said Italy was opposed to supplying weapons to any country engaged in a war. Italy has friendly relations with both Iran and Iraq and is using its influence to persuade the two states to seek a peaceful solution to their disputes.

Replying a question on Afghanistan the Italian Under Secretary said he has visited the Afghanistan refugee camps in Pakistan several times and he strongly condemned the Soviet invasion of that country. Italy is actively participating in relief and aid programmes for refugees.

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CSO: 4400/127

QATAR

BRIEFS

LARGE GYPSUM ORE DEPOSITS DISCOVERED--A variety of metals and ores have been discovered in Qatar as a result of a geological survey by the Qatari Industrial Development Technical Centre. The centre's Deputy Director-General, Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Jabour al-Thani, said gypsum ores had also been discovered in great quantities in southwest Qatar. Studies are under way on starting national industries to exploit the new gypsum reserves, estimated at 10 million tonnes. Other types of clay suitable for the chemical industry had also been found, he said. Sheikh Abdulrahman said Qatar had an abundant supply of celestite ore useful for the electronics and thermal industries. [Text] [Muscat TIMES OF OMAN in English 1 Jan 87 p 7] /9274

CSO: 4400/126

AID, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS NOT HINDERED BY DEFICIT

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 7-13 Jan 87 pp 19-20

[Article: "King Fahd Announces a Balanced Budget: 50 Billion Riyals for New Projects, Retention of Subsidies and Lending Programs"]

[Text] "In the past, as is well known, the kingdom used to produce close to 11 million, the highest level, or 10 or 9 million barrels a day. This level dropped to 6 million, then 4 million and then to 350,000 barrels and now it has dropped a little more. Therefore, we hope that the Saudi citizen will accept this budget with some of its cuts compared to that of previous years. We cannot forget, however, that the government in past years undertook the key projects in all sectors."

With these words, King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz presented an outline of the Saudi budget which he announced last week and which contains a 6 percent cut in actual spending from last year's level. Nonetheless, the Saudi budget is the largest in the Arab area and the most comprehensive with respect to projects and general services. It amounts to 170 billion riyals.

The Guardian of the Holy Places, King Fahd, delivered his speech last week during the Saudi cabinet meeting during which he ratified the budget to focus on a number of points that warrant review.

First, successive cuts in the budget that represents the government spending plan for the next 12 months is primarily due to lower oil revenues caused by the known drop in prices and production.

Saudi Arabia Did Not Resort to Borrowing

Second, although budget figures have sustained cuts at a rate of 80 percent during the last 6 years, Saudi Arabia has not turned to borrowing to close the deficit. It is one of the few countries that depend on oil as the principle revenue which has not turned to borrowing. Instead, the Saudi government has succeeded in balancing its revenues and expenses through spending rationalization programs. This in itself is one of the most outstanding successes the Saudi government has achieved at a time when other oil-producing

countries are suffering the predicament of accumulated debts, foreign pressures and intervention in their internal affairs. As for how the Saudi government will face the problem of the discrepancy between revenue and spending estimates for the new fiscal year, a statement issued by the Ministry of Finance and National Economy indicated that the projected difference is 52.280 billion riyals, which will be made up from the state's general reserve.

50 Billion for Projects

Third, a striking figure is the 50 billion riyals appropriated for the implementation of approved projects and programs. This underscores the government's desire not to impede its development programs already in place, noting that most principal projects in the fields of housing, industry, agriculture, ports, roads and services such as telephone, water and sewage, have already been completed. Infrastructure equipment is expected to be completed and the standard of public services and human and material resources development are expected to be improved. In the general budget spending statement, it was mentioned that among the basic equipment sectors the government plans to implement is equipment for basic industries in al-Jubayl and Yanbu', the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, the pilgrimage facility projects, the Meteorological Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency and the General Bureau of Standards, in addition to projects in other sectors.

Aid and Lending Programs Will Continue

Fourth, the most important sign of continuity that set Saudi government projects apart from others was King Fahd's announcement in his cabinet speech that subsidies to citizens and local corporations would be retained in the fields of agriculture and industry. The Saudi Ministry of Finance has reported the allocation of 6.88 billion riyals to be spent on local subsidies such as agricultural aid, aid in purchasing locally-grown wheat, aid to the electric companies, aid to the social security program and aid to athletic clubs, public schools and imported foodstuffs and fodder.

Subsidies are not the only distinguishing feature, for there are also the lending programs the government offers with easy terms to corporations and individuals whereby loans are granted on a long-term and interest-free basis. The new budget provides for 3.59 billion riyals in subsidies earmarked for real estate, agricultural and industrial activities, all contributing to the main objective the Saudi government is trying to achieve, namely the formation of a productive national capital.

Fifth, the new budget report illustrated the growing importance of non-oil revenues in government spending. Six years ago, oil represented 87.6 percent of the country's income. When oil revenues decreased, other revenues increased and oil now represents 55.6 percent of the total income. Other revenues in the new 52.080 billion budget come from investments and profits accrued over past years by ARAMCO, the principal producer of oil in Saudi Arabia, and the Petromin Corporation that markets oil products. Add to that revenues from customs duties, port fees, post and telegraph fees and other public service fees.

Role of Oil Revenues

The announcement of the Saudi budget coincided with the success OPEC realized 2 weeks ago under Saudi leadership. Saudi oil represents the most important source of oil in world markets by virtue of Saudi Arabia's low-cost high-production capacity coupled with freedom from foreign debts.

In the speech in which he announced the new budget, King Fahd clearly focused on Saudi Arabia's intent to adhere to OPEC's unity and solidarity which ultimately means stability in the oil market. The last meeting achieved the Saudi demand to raise the price of oil to \$18 a barrel and put oil-producing countries within and without the organization to the test.

The relationship of oil to the Saudi budget represents more than half the country's revenues received from oil companies operating in Saudi Arabic, namely ARAMCO, the Getty Oil Company and the Arab Oil Company, Ltd. Projected revenues from oil are calculated on the basis of the resolution issued by the recent conference in Geneva, hence the OPEC meeting results gave a positive image to government spending in Saudi Arabia.

In his same speech, King Fahd said: "The citizens will notice when the budget details are published a cut from last year. This cut, however, will in no way affect the budget's general framework. Nonetheless, we hope that the price of oil by the middle of next year will have improved." This is in line with the projections of several oil economists who predict a reasonable rise in oil prices as a consequence of the recent OPEC agreement to lower production and to insist on a unified price.

[See budget appropriations chart on following page]

Saudi Budget Appropriations by Sectors
(3.75 riyals equal approximately one dollar)

Major Sectors	New FY-87 Appropriations (millions riyals)
Municipal Services	8.100
Health, Information, Social Affairs	11.094
Ministry of Education	9.914
General Organization for Educating Girls	6.683
Universities	5.831
Institutes and Training Centers	1.397
Transportation and Communications	11.934
Economic Resources	8.439
Machinery	4.200
Public Administration	10.254
Development Funds	3.590
Local Loans	6.800
Public Utilities	21.012
Military and Security Sectors	60.752

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SAUDI ARABIA

BRIEFS

NEW REFINERIES--Saudi Arabia last week celebrated the opening of two important industrial centers which King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz innaugurated. During the innauguration of the Petromin-Shell refinery and the new refinery in the industrial city of Ras al-Tannurah, King Fahd announced the confirmation of acting Oil Minister Hisham Nazir as Minister of Oil and Mineral Resources. The innauguration of the two oil centers coincided with OPEC's success in arriving at a price of \$18 a barrel after Saudi Arabia led the last Geneva conference to the first positive results since the slump in oil prices began. These two oil plants will achieve integration in the country's huge oil industrial network, comprising the largest oil pipeline in the world, extending 1,200 km from east to west where export ports are located. The improvement in oil prices, in addition to the expansion of the industrial base, will have a positive impact on the Saudi budget which in the last 3 years has succeeded in achieving a balance between revenues and spending without resorting to foreign loans, something certain oil-producing countries have had to do. [Text] [London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 31 Dec 86 - 6 Jan 87 p 9] 12502

CSO: 4404/191

FARMING COOPERATIVES IN DAYR AL-ZAWR

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 3 Dec 86 p 4

[Article by Khalil Agtini]

[Text] In the past few years farming cooperatives in Dayr al-Zawr have witnessed remarkable growth. At the end of 1980 there were 145 farming cooperatives in that province; 34 of these cooperatives specialized in raising sheep and improving pastures, while the other 113 were multi-purpose cooperatives. At the end of 1985 there were 170 farming cooperatives; 107 cooperatives were multi-purpose ones, while the other 62 were specialized. In addition, 25 cooperatives were inactive, but 9 of these inactive cooperatives have become specialized. If we compare, in the province of Dar al-Zawr, there are 131 villages and 269 farming cooperatives, which means that every village belongs to a farming cooperative. At the present time farming cooperatives in 15 villages are inactive. Farming cooperative plans also include 60 small villages. Villages that are not included in a cooperative plan at the present time are located in the desert. All farming cooperatives are supervised by three unions. At the end of 1980, there were 25,884 farmers who were members of farming cooperatives and 1,198 of these members were women. At the end of 1985, the membership rose to 36,634, 2,157 of whom were women. According to the 1981 census, the population of Dar al-Zawr numbered 284,566 persons, with 70 percent of those working in agriculture and 18 percent of all farmers belonging to farming cooperatives. Census reports also indicate that there were 26,311 landowners and 3,084 animal breeders. These figures indicate that only 56 percent of landowners and animal breeders belong to farming cooperatives. What about the other 44 percent? Why have they not joined farming cooperatives. Comrade Ahmad al-Hamad, president of the farmers union in the province, answered these questions by saying that in some villages there are social reasons that prevent farmers from joining. In addition some properties cannot be profitably farmed by the farmers union because of a high concentration of salt in the soil. Also, some other properties cannot be profitably farmed by the farmers union because they are far apart. Added to this is the fact that some farmers do not own land, and some own small parcels of land, which prevents them from joining the farming cooperatives. In addition, because of salty soil or other reasons, some farmers have abandoned their land to work in private agricultural projects. Comrade Ahmad also talked about the reason why some farming cooperatives have not been reactivated. According

to Comrade Ahmad, there were 25 inactive farming cooperatives among the farming cooperatives in the province. Nine of them have been reactivated and specialize in raising sheep and in improving pastures. The other 16 are still inactive, which prevents all who are working on those farms from joining the farming cooperatives.

Agriculture and Production

All documents and information provided by Comrade Ahmad al-Hamad, president of the farmers union in the province, indicate that between 1980 and 1985 there was a decrease of 6,989 hectares in the land farmed by farming cooperatives. The reason for this decrease is an increase in the amount of salt in some land which was then abandoned. In 1980, 39,899 hectares of land were farmed. By 1985, only 3,290 hectares were farmed at a time when more land was being used by cooperatives. Compared with the total arable land in the province, the percentage of the land which was used by the cooperatives rose from 50 percent in 1980 to 61 percent in 1985. This increase took place as more land, which was previously farmed by the private sector, became a part of the cooperative sector. During that same period wheat planting decreased by 2,903 hectares, and as a consequence wheat production has decreased by 7,742 tons. The decrease in wheat production took place despite the fact that each hectare yielded 3,028 kg of wheat, an increase of 58 kg. On the other hand, barley planting increased by 2,354 hectares. Last year barley production was 45,045 tons. Also, yellow corn planting increased from 3,273 hectares to 7,441 hectares, an increase of 4,168 hectares. As a consequence of an increase in acreage, production increased from 7,200 tons to 10,013 tons, an increase of 2,813 tons. Yellow corn is considered an important crop in the province of Dayr al-Zawr. Cotton planting increased by 3,478 hectares, that is, from 11,920 hectares to 15,398 hectares. Cotton production also increased by 10,449 tons, that is, from 24,055 tons to 34,504 tons. More cotton was planted because sugar beets were not planted in the province in 1985. In 1980 a hectare of cotton yielded 2,018 kg, but yielded 2,240 kg in 1985, a fact that also accounts for the increase in cotton production. In 1980, 3,167 hectares of sugar beets were planted and 3,499 hectares were planted in 1984, an increase of 332 hectares. Sugar beet production in 1980 was 2,444 tons but increased to 52,273 in 1984 an increase of 27,829 tons. A hectare of sugar beets yielded an additional 7,221 kg, that is, from 7,718 kg to 14,939 kg. According to the information we have, there was a decrease in the production as well as in the planting of tomatoes, sesame seeds, white corn, and okra. Officials who are in charge of these crops provided an unclear reason for the decrease--"limitations imposed by the plan." The decrease in tomato planting was 105 hectares and the decrease in sesame seed planting was 4,949 hectares. In addition to agricultural plan limitations there was another reason for the decrease in sesame seed planting: a lack of good seeds, a fact which led to a decrease in production. White corn planting decreased from 1,510 hectares to 541 hectares, a decrease of 969 hectares. White corn production also decreased from 2,416 tons to 350 tons. Also, the yield per hectare decreased from 1,600 kg to 646 kg. The decrease in white corn production is due to a lack of good planting corn, and is also due to an increase in the planting of the more productive yellow corn. Okra planting decreased from 702 hectares to 270 hectares, a decrease of 432 hectares. Production also decreased from 8,424 tons to 1,721

tons. The yield of a hectare decreased from 12,000 kg to 6,380 kg. This is due to a fluctuation in the price of okra and a decrease in planting imposed by the agricultural plan. We can really understand the decrease in the acreage and production of some crops such as wheat because the reason for the decrease is the high concentration of salt in the soil, but we do not understand why there was a decrease in the others, such as tomatoes. Everyone knows that there is a tomato canning factory in Dayr al-Zawr. Why then the decrease in the planted acreage from 738 hectares to 633 hectares when the factory is importing tomatoes from other provinces? Would it not have been wiser to increase rather than decrease tomato planting in order to satisfy the local needs of consumption and canning? Planting more tomatoes in Dayr al-Zawr would have saved a great amount of money that is spent on transportation. In addition, tomatoes produced in Dayr al-Zawr are known to be the best for making tomato paste and, unlike imported tomatoes, are not subjected to damage caused by long distance transportation. We also do not know why okra planting was decreased when, on the average, Dayr al-Zawr consumes more okra than other provinces.

Shortage of Fruit Trees

Since the beginning of 1985, farming cooperatives and farmer unions have been trying to obtain enough planting trees for the farmers of Dayr al-Zawr. The actual number of fruit trees provided to farmers is far below the projected number. There has been a shortage of 4,216 apricot trees, 980 plum trees, 1,109 peach trees, 5,023 green plum trees, 1,160 pear trees, 4,437 grape vines, 1,316 quince trees, 504 fig trees, 42 walnut trees, 173 olive trees, 8,354 citrus trees, and 5,144 pomegranate trees. This is a total of 34,139 trees below the projected number. Two reasons have been given for this shortage:
--Some types of fruit trees have not been available in sufficient quantity.
--Some farming cooperatives have failed to claim their assigned trees on time, which has led to a sale of these trees.

Failing to claim the assigned trees has been a problem for a long time. In 1980 only 35 percent of the trees were claimed, in 1981 56 percent, in 1983 34 percent, in 1984 73 percent, and in 1985 87 percent. That makes a total of 73,721 unclaimed trees. During the past 5 years, 262,025 planted trees died due to disease, cold, frost, or drought. Between 1980 and 1984 the number of forest trees increased from 85,000 to 100,000 trees, an increase of 15 percent. In 1986, 7,700 trees were planted in an area of 4,500 square meters.

Animal Raising

In 1980, there were 938,050 head of sheep, 64,900 of which belonged to the farming cooperatives. In 1985, the number of sheep increased to 1,819,382 head, 1,214,050 of which belonged to the farming cooperatives. In 1980, there were 79,429 goats, 35,000 of which belonged to the farming cooperatives. In 1985, this number increased to 96,506 head, 58,873 of which belonged to the farming cooperatives. In 1980, there were 74,315 domestic cows and in 1985 the number increased to 76,818 head. In 1980, there were 3,979 Syrian cows, and in 1985 the number increased to 8,324. In 1980 there were 2,948 foreign cows, and in 1985 the number increased to 3,057 cows. In 1980 the total number of cows was

81,242, 29,399 of which belonged to the farming cooperatives. In 1985 the number of cows increased to 88,199 cows, 63,452 of which belonged to the farming cooperatives. A comparison between the two last numbers indicates that there was a decrease in the number of cows owned by the private sector. The increase in the number of cows in the cooperative sector is due to improved veterinary care and to the availability of fodder because fodder is exclusively distributed by the farming cooperatives. Fodder is given regularly to unions that are in charge of fattening sheep and improving pastures. In 1986, 1,233 tons of oil cake, 2,991,150 [as published] tons of bran, 710,250 tons of bark, and 76,450 tons of dry milk were given to those unions. An area of 648 square km on the Kibajib oasis and 324 square km in al-Shulah oasis were planted with special bushes on which livestock can feed. It was learned that 4,302 square km of the desert were misused. It was learned that in addition to confiscating machines and equipment, 23 violations for plowing and 24 violations for digging wells were given. Veterinarians and health assistants were sent to the desert and Dayr al-Zawr villages in order to innoculate animals against common diseases. In 1985, 1,062,650 head of sheep and 41,335 head of cattle were innoculated, 860,000 head of sheep were treated for external parasites, and 87,000 head of sheep and 442 head of cattle were treated for internal parasites.

There are in the desert 12 wells providing water for the livestock and their owners. More wells are still needed, especially artesian wells. Some facilities such as dispensaries, schools, and stores have to be built in order to provide a stable life for sheep herders.

Production Cooperatives

In Dayr al-Zawr there is one production cooperative in the village of Abi-Zur al-Ghafari. This cooperative, which includes 120 members, was established in 1969 and specializes in agricultural production. Sand dunes buried the western creek that irrigated various agricultural crops. In order to remedy this situation the farming cooperative of Abi-Zur al-Ghafari appointed a committee to study the possibility of moving that creek to the eastern side of town. Upon completion of the study, the SORICO company began the opening of the new canal that is estimated to be 7 km long. Four km of the canal are before the railroad, 1,000 meters of that distance has been completely built, 1,720 meters are under construction, and for lack of funds, the building of the remaining 1,200 meters has been postponed until the end of the planting season. Consequently, 2,720 meters of the canal have been built or are under construction. At the present time there are no plans to build the rest of the canal, especially the part that is located beyond the railroad. The cooperative union of Abi-Zur al-Ghafari also decided to replace the diesel pump with an electrical one at a capacity of 2 cubic meters per second and 600,000 Syrian pounds have been set aside by the Supreme Agricultural Council for the installation of the new pump. In order to have it installed the cooperative union contacted those in charge, particularly the Department of Electricity in Dayr al-Zur. Before the power could be turned on, a transformer station had to be built on cooperative land. The transformer station was built; however, the Department of Electricity refused to equip and supply it with power, claiming the existence of a new law prohibiting the building of private transformer stations. Efforts

are still being exerted to solve this misunderstanding. In 1983, the farming cooperative of Abi-Zur al-Ghafari planted 54,000 square meters of sugar beets to be watered by spray irrigation. Because of the impurity of the water, the machines used in spraying clogged constantly and irrigation had to be stopped. Because the building of the canal has not been completed, the farming cooperative had to adopt a new plan that takes into consideration available resources. This plan calls for the farming of 720,000 square meters during the winter season and of 1,080,000 square meters during the summer season, and the planting of yellow corn in an area of 720,000 square meters. Abi-Zur al-Ghafari Farming Cooperative is considered a leader in agricultural production. In 1980 it gained 75,000 Syrian pounds, 452,000 Syrian pounds in 1981, 374,000 Syrian pounds in 1982, and 941,000 Syrian pounds in 1983.

Farm Machinery

In Dayr al-Zwar there are 34 artesian wells and 2 dams: al-Roum dam and al-Wa'r dam. The farming cooperatives in the province own 8,865 machines. They also own 4,500 tractors and 5 trucks. It is the policy of the farming cooperative to sell tractors that are more than 10 years old and 26 percent of all the tractors owned by the cooperatives have been sold for this reason. Tractors have brought the farming cooperatives 135,337 Syrian pounds, and the trucks have brought 115,140.85 Syrian pounds. Maintenance crews earned 24,556 Syrian pounds in 1980 and 55,561 Syrian pounds in 1985. The increase in their income was 19 percent. Revenues from the sale of oil lubricant, motor oil, and gasoline were 200,869.00 Syrian pounds. Revenues from the spare parts shop were 125,247 Syrian pounds in 1980 and 26,078 Syrian pounds in 1985. The reason for the shop's decrease in revenue was the unavailability of a sufficient quantity of spare parts. In 1984 the revenue from the sale of insecticide was 120,888 Syrian pounds.

Difficulties That Should Be Overcome

From the documents we obtained and the conversation we had with the officials in charge, we learned that several difficulties still hinder the growth of agriculture in Dayr al-Zawr:

- Large areas of land are continuously excluded from production because of either a high degree of salt in the soil or haphazard housing development;
- The land is producing less because of a lack of knowledge concerning the soil, proper fertilizer, and suitable crops for planting;
- The lack of spare parts, oil, and gasoline;
- The unpredictability of the flow of the Euphrates and al-Khabur that ruins large cultivated areas;
- The fluctuation in the price of vegetables and fruits that makes it difficult to plant the right crops;

--The spread of diseases and insects that destroy a large number of trees;

--The increase in the workload and the inability of the General Farming Cooperative of Dayr al-Zawr to accommodate the needs of the existing 114 farming unions of the province.

--The emigration of workers to the cities and the Arabic countries;

--The lack of distribution and leasing of acquired lands as required by Statute 31 of 1980, which concerns limitations on agricultural ownership;

--The disruption of union work by personal relationships;

--Sand covering large areas of land of Abi-Zur al-Ghafari, Hamar al-Kasrah, and the villages of Nahiyat al-Sur;

--Flooding.

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CSO: 4404/135

SYRIA

BRIEFS

COMMUNIST PAPER CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT--In its 24th issue, KURRAS NIDAL AL-SHA'B [NOTES ON THE PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE] which is published by the Central Committee of the Syrian Communist Party, severely criticized the Syrian government and attacked it because of the decline in economic conditions in Syria and because of the government's policy in Lebanon and toward the PLO. The severest criticism of the Syrian government in NIDAL AL-SHA'B was on account of its position sympathetic to Iran in the Gulf war, a position "far removed from vital national and pan-Arab interests." The Syrian government was criticized for working with Libyan regime to push Arab conditions toward a further decline. [Text] [London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Dec 86 p 3] 12937

LAND UTILIZATION STUDY RELEASED--The land of the country has been divided into five designated regions according to amount of rainfall, productivity of each region, and the kind of crops grown in each designated region. The yearly report on land utilization issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform indicated that the area of all designated regions amounted to 18,517,971 hectares, 2,694,877 hectares out of this area lying in the first region. The area of arable land outside of the designated areas amounted to 6,168,826 hectares of which 5,653,557 hectares are being exploited, and the rest not exploited. The total amount of nonarable land was 331,924 hectares. It includes building and utility sites, swamps, lakes, and sandy deserts. Pasture and grazing land amounted to 8,318,872 hectares. Forested land amounted to 498,349 hectares. The report showed that total exploited areas in the settlement regions of the country amounted to 5,653,557 hectares, lands left to rest ("fallow") amounted to 1,919,612 hectares, and actually cultivated lands, irrigated and unirrigated, amounted to 3,117,083 hectares. [Text] [Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 27 Dec 86 p 2] 12937

CSO: 4404/193

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

THOUSANDS OF EXPATRIATES LEAVE DUE TO OIL PRICE DROP

Muscat TIMES OF OMAN in English 8 Jan 87 p 12

[Text] Nearly 6,000 expatriate workers left the United Arab Emirates in November, reflecting the impact of the oil price collapse on the state's economy according to statistics released in Abu Dhabi last week.

The Labour and Social Affairs Ministry said 4,000 of the 5,880 foreigners left from Abu Dhabi and Dubai, the two major emirates of the UAE.

Oil revenues, 90 per cent of the UAE's income, has been declined since 1982 when it reached a peak of \$15 bn.

According to unofficial statistics, most of the Emirates' 1.6mn population are expatriates.

Unofficial figures show that Indians form the largest expatriate community with an estimated 400,000 people. There are an estimated 225,000 Pakistanis.

The UAE also has 75,000 Bengalis, 55,000 Filipinos and 25,000 Sri Lankans. There are an estimated 45,000 Europeans and 100,000 Iranians.

- The Board of Directors of the Klinker Company met in Ras al Khaimah last week to discuss the request of the Kuwait Government to liquidate the firm. Kuwait is a partner in the company.

- The total estimated cost of development projects in Abu Dhabi during 1986 has been Dh 34.6 billion, of which Dh 33.1 billion was spent before September, the emirate's Department of Economics said.

/12828

CSO: 4400/125

FERTILIZERS, PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTED TO FARMERS

Kabul HEYWAD in Dari 17 Nov 86 p 2

[Text] The qualitative and quantitative increase in the level of agricultural products which has great and fundamental significance toward the national economic growth of the country, depends on the effective utilization of the land through the use of various fertilizers, improved wheat-seeds, use of pesticides and herbicides, employment of mechanized equipment and agricultural services and proper administration of the affairs.

The Department of Fertilizer and Agricultural Services as a government organ for the purpose of implementing the social and economic development plans of the DRA, has specific duties and responsibilities as regards the provision, import, distribution, transportation and supply of various kinds of fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides throughout the country.

With regard to the aforementioned duties and responsibilities the said department has been able to play its noteworthy role quite well toward the growth of agriculture and stockbreeding sectors. Whereas during the first 5-year plan of the country it is intended to increase the distribution of fertilizer from 145,000 tons in 1365 [21 March 1986 - 20 March 1987] to 220,000 tons in 1369 [21 March 1990 - 20 March 1991]. Similarly, during the same period it is intended to increase the distribution level of pesticides and herbicides from 100 million afghanis to 120 million afghanis. Thus during the 5-year plan in comparison to the year 1364 [21 March 1985 - 20 March 1986] there will be 169 percent increase in the section of fertilizer and 171 percent increase in the section of pesticides. Regarding the provision of fertilizers, it should be mentioned that urea fertilizer will be provided from domestic plants, namely the Power and Fertilizer Plant of Mazar-e Sharif. Since as a result of an increase in demand, after 1366 [21 March 1987 - 20 March 1988] the production of the above-stated fertilizer plant will not meet the needs of the farmers, it is intended to import 10,000 tons of fertilizer in 1366 which will be gradually increased to meet rising demands. Likewise, during the 5-year plan the distribution level of phosphatic fertilizers, which are totally imported, will be increased from 20,000 tons to 60,000 tons in order to meet the demands of the respected farmers, and in the same period there will be an increase in the import of pesticides and herbicides, namely from an equivalent value of 140 million afghanis to 178 million afghanis. This demonstrates the participation of the Fertilizer Plant in helping the farmers toward the growth and development of the country's economy.

During 1365 which is the first year of the 5-year plan of the country, the Department of Fertilizer will distribute 145,000 tons of fertilizers and an equivalent amount of 100 million afghanis of pesticides among the farmers of the country. For this purpose, the aforesaid department has made appropriate decisions and accordingly the trip plans of the leading groups and specialists of the field have already been prepared and based on these plans the responsible officials will travel to various regions throughout the country to study the problems caused by the non-implementation of the plan as regards the transfer and distribution of fertilizers and other agricultural services and likewise they will seek the views of the relevant authorities in resolving these problems so that more effective and beneficial results of the duties of the Department of Fertilizer will be realized. In a similar fashion, for improving the transportation, distribution and supply prospects, various possibilities are under study during the successful spring and autumn campaigns.

12719

CSO: 4665/13

BETTER, CHEAPER FOODSTUFFS AVAILABLE THROUGH COOPERATIVES

Kabul HEYWAD in Dari 19 Nov 86 p 4

[Text] For the purpose of providing adequate supplies of foodstuffs and offering the same to the general public throughout the city of Kabul, the government has made serious decisions and put them into effect. To this end, on a daily basis 25 tons of flour are offered for sale to the Kabul inhabitants at a reasonable price in various location of the city such as Bagh-e Qazi, Kheyr-Khaneh, Shah-e Shahid and Mirveys Square.

BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY correspondent, after contact with the responsible organs in this regard writes: The inhabitants of Kabul buy the major part of their essential needs including foodstuffs and consumable materials every day from 620 government stores and cooperatives at lower prices than the market. To this end, for the convenience and comfort of the Kabul's inhabitants in obtaining foodstuffs, the government provides hundreds of millions of afghanis a year in subsidies. For instance, only the department in charge of provisions alone assigns more than 1.155 billion afghanis in subsidies annually--for every 56 kilograms of flour provided to government employees and coupon holders, about 600 afghanis is paid by the government in the form of subsidies.

Furthermore, the department in charge of provisions recently assigned 10 kilograms of rice to each coupon holder at a price 150 percent lower than the market. In a like manner, the distribution of cooking oil, which is carried out by the various stores throughout the city and which work independently from the department in charge of the provisions, is also done at a price 50 percent lower than the market and most of the hardworking people of Kabul get their essential needs from these stores since the prices are more reasonable than the market.

BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY correspondent goes on to add that the provision and distribution of fresh chicken, butter, eggs, cheese and similar other necessities through the Vegetables Export Company plays an important role in controlling the rise in prices. In the current year, through 33 stores which are located in different parts of the city of Kabul, sufficient amount of chicken, butter, eggs and cheese have been made available to the public at 20- to 100 percent lower than the market price.

Gholam Rabani, a driver of Afsutar Company who is also an inhabitant of Kabul said: The action of our popular government with regard to establishing government stores not only has provided a great convenience for us but also from an

economic viewpoint has been of particular significance. For instance, if these stores were not available I could probably not be able to obtain chicken at 300 afghanis a kilogram for which I have only to pay 140 afghanis now.

The Friendship Cooperative and Commerce Department is also one of the public-oriented organs which assists our economy and people through the distribution of consumable products. This department became operational in 1359 [21 March 1980 - 20 March 1981] with an equivalent gratis assistance in goods worth 100 million rubles from the friendly country of the Soviet Union. Today our countrymen can obtain their essential needs such as clothing, shoes, home appliances, toys for children and hundreds of similar items at prices 25 percent lower than the market price from the retail stores.

It is also planned for the near future that the above-stated department will import other household equipment such as refrigerators, sewing machines and other similar items from the friendly countries of the Soviet Union, German Democratic Republic, and Bulgaria to be offered for sale to our dear countrymen.

BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY correspondent further adds that in order to stabilize the prices of foodstuffs, the cooperative movement in the country is gaining momentum with each and every passing day through active participation of our workers, farmers, government employees and other strata of the society.

12719

CSO: 4665/13

ANALYST WRITES ON U.S.. INDIAN RELATIONS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 2 Jan 87 p 9

[Article by Narendra Singh]

[Text]

SINCE the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's meeting with President Reagan last year, the American as well as the Indian governments have been trying to improve relations between the two countries. But have these efforts brought about any meaningful change so far? Below are some impressions after a recent visit to the U.S.

First the positive side: Among the American masses Mr. Rajiv Gandhi enjoys a good image and the mood towards India is a lot more benign. This at least creates a favourable climate for the administration to move forward, if it so desires.

An ex-secretary of state told me that the atmosphere in his country was now more friendly to India than at any time during the past 25 years.

The presidential directive to enlarge and diversify collaboration with India is proof of an effort to build bridges with India not very much visible since the first year of Kennedy's presidency. As a result of this decision, Weinberger, Alridge and others have visited India and negotiations have begun on the transfer of high technology in the civil and defence fields.

India's economic policies as developed in the last two budgets are the most important reasons for the favourable shift in the U.S. perceptions about India. There is growing conviction that the Indian economy is strengthening and also turning more liberal. Since India is now less dependent on U.S. economic aid and totally independent of food aid, the complexes generated by a donor-recipient relations are also less evident on Capitol Hill.

American business houses are

showing greater interest in the possibilities of collaborating with Indian enterprises and American economists and journalists are writing about some positive aspects of the Indian scene. The trend is facilitated by the disappointment American businessmen have recently faced in China. The success of Japan in India has also whetted appetites.

India and the U.S. have not permitted their dispute over Pakistan or the Soviet Union to muddy relations across the board. Since Mr. Rajiv Gandhi is not suspected of being a fellow traveller, the U.S. feels less perturbed about India's contacts with the Soviet Union. In spite of the heavy reliance on Pakistan to serve American ends in Afghanistan, there is less desire to equate Pakistan with India. Indian representatives too are pontificating a little less.

Strong public feelings in the U.S. against terrorism have prevented the Khalistan supporters in America from getting public support. If this had happened, Indo-American relations would have been in tatters.

Indian efforts to resolve the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka — whatever their success — have helped India's image in Washington. Likewise Mr. Reagan's firmer stand in dealing with China has found an emotional echo in India.

The Indian cultural exhibition in the U.S. has left a lingering good taste.

On the negative side the following may be noted: The U.S. resents the fact that India continues to stand in the way of Russia's total isolation. For, indeed, except for India, no other large country is friendly to the Soviet Union. Some of the positive factors mentioned above have, for

the moment, persuaded the U.S. to influence India through offering co-operation. But obviously the situation imposes limits to a true meeting of minds and the progress in Indo-U.S. relationship at best remains tentative. Can young Rajiv handle the experienced Gorbachov, they wonder.

President Reagan is willing to win at Pakistan's nuclear ambitions and arm it with AWACS and more F-16s, in return for Pakistan's services in Afghanistan and remains unconcerned that Pakistan may be preparing to use these weapons against India. The argument that India is a democracy and closer to American values than Pakistan does not seem to outweigh immediate strategic considerations and the same is true vice versa.

India's moves to come closer to the U.S. have at times been misinterpreted as having increased American leverage to pressurise India or to ignore with greater impunity Indian security concerns. For example, the supply of AWACS to Pakistan is seen by some in Washington as less contentious now that India is thought to be more friendly.

Despite efforts by the two governments, India is unable to get its views across readily to the U.S. makers of high policy. Neither has India a lobby among the U.S. voters nor is it a strategic partner.

The Indian security forces' inability to control terrorism and the recurring tensions in India's body politic create a feeling of fragility about India in American minds.

The increase in the democratic representation in Congress and the scandal about the White House illegally funnelling funds and arms are unlikely to change the situation. The supply of arms to Pakistan, unlike to the "Contras", enjoys Congress' sanction. There is a wide consensus on using Pakistan to aid the Afghan rebels. Indeed, in order to get out of trouble, President Reagan may adopt an even more jingoistic stance in foreign affairs.

"Plus ca change, plus c'est la même chose", say the French when they wish to convey that nothing much has moved. But imperceptibly things have moved between India and America in this past year. The perceptions of large democracies cannot be changed overnight. There are many negative factors and some may, indeed, wreck the new beginning. But the atmosphere amongst the U.S. public is better and the new generation of Indian leaders are showing the political will to persevere to improve ties. These last two are vital factors important because in the U.S., foreign policy is often based on predilections and propensity and in India it flows from the top.

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CSO: 4600/1351

ANALYST ON FOREIGN SECRETARY'S U.S. VISIT

Madras THE HINDU in English 6 Jan 87 p 9

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Jan. 5.

The Foreign Secretary, Mr. A. P. Venkateswaran, is leaving for Washington tomorrow for the annual bilateral talks with his opposite number in the State Department, Mr. Michael Armacost, the Under Secretary of State, on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Apart from voicing concern at the continued supply of more and more sophisticated weapon systems to Pakistan, he will avail himself of the opportunity to exchange views on issues like Afghanistan besides acquainting the U.S. Government of the steps being taken by India to improve relations with its neighbouring countries in the South Asian Region.

Appreciative

The continued efforts being made by India to bring about a lasting political settlement of the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka will also figure during these discussions. Whatever its reservations over India's policies towards the other neighbouring countries like Pakistan, the U.S. has been quite appreciative of the helpful role India has been playing to find an amicable solution to this Sri Lankan problem.

It is realised in Delhi that, irrespective of the nature of its differences with Washington, it is in India's own interest to keep open a line of communication with the U.S. and seem to be engaging in a frank dialogue over many issues of bilateral and regional importance. These periodic exchanges with the U.S. will have an impact on the policies and attitudes of countries like China and Pakistan, in the sense that the absence of such contacts are liable to be misconstrued as a sign of increasing rift between Delhi and Washington.

The Foreign Secretary will try to ascertain whether the U.S. Government has completed its inter-agency study of the draft agreement on safeguards that was initiated in Delhi last

month for the sale of the supercomputer, since the Government of India has approved it. The U.S. Ambassador, Mr. John Gunther Dean, had assured the Government that the final American position would be made known by the time Mr. Venkateswaran goes to Washington.

The U.S. seems to be of the view that in any case it would take at least a year, if not longer, for the supercomputer to be shipped and installed in India after construction of the special premises for it. In these days of rapid advances in technology, what is now regarded as a highly classified item will get downgraded to a lower classification in another three or four years, when more advanced models of the same computers are made by the firms concerned.

U.S. satisfied

So the U.S. appears to be quite content with the Indian offer to let American personnel be associated with the maintenance of this equipment, as an alternative to periodic supervision, subject to a review of this arrangement after a three-year period as provided for in the draft agreement. But one can never be too sure of which agency in Washington might throw a spanner in the wheel until the agreement is actually signed and ratified by the U.S. Government.

The Foreign Secretary will also try to probe how far the U.S. would go in supplying AWACS to Pakistan, whether the proposed Airborne Early Warning (AEW) system would be the very latest that is being sought by Pakistan that would be highly detrimental to India's defence. There have been some diplomatic exchanges already on the subject and Mr. Venkateswaran will press for a more precise disclosure of the American intentions.

He will stop over for a couple of days in London for similar talks with his British counterpart, Sir Michael Wright, on his way back from Washington.

INDO-SOVIET MILITARY COOPERATION RFVIEWFD

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 7 Jan 87 p 5

[Text]

Indo-Soviet military cooperation which touched a high water-mark with the arrival of MiG-29, the most modern Soviet interceptor and front-line fighter aircraft, commenced more than 30 years ago, reports UNI.

It was in 1955 that the Soviet Union, looking to India as a close friend in South Asia, presented two IL-14 transport aircraft to India. That was also the year when Bulganin and Khrushchev came to India.

Five years later India purchased another 24 IL-14 aircraft. In 1961, ten Mi-4 helicopters and eight AN-12 transport planes were acquired from the Soviet Union and a year later, 16 more Mi-4 and eight more AN-12 aircraft were brought.

It was in 1961-62 that India was worried about the US Starfighters, F-104, reaching Pakistan. India looked for fighter-interceptors for the IAF but the United States refused to give its Starfighters to India. The United Kingdom, wanting to block Indian approaches to the Soviet Union, offered to sell its lightning interceptors but was not prepared to permit their manufacture under licence in India.

Defence Minister V K Krishna Menon, looked to Moscow. In August 1962, an agreement was concluded with the Soviet Union for the immediate purchase of 12 MiG-21 aircraft as well as obtaining Soviet technical assistance

for the manufacture of the aircraft in India, under licence.

The Chinese resented this deal. The China factor stood in the way of the speedy implementation of the agreement and the Sino-Indian border conflict intervened.

But, by 1964, the Soviet Union and China had fallen apart and the first six MiG-21 arrived in India.

In September 1964, 88 MiG-21, with some modifications, arrived. The Soviet Union provided the technical aid and machinery to establish manufacturing facilities.

The following year, India signed an agreement with the USSR to obtain Soviet frigates. This was followed by an agreement to obtain submarines.

Between 1964 and 1968, the army also acquired the PT-76 and T-54 and T-55 tanks from the Soviet Union. One 'E' class submarine and one Petya-class frigate from the Soviet Union were added to the navy. The IAF got the Soviet fighter-bomber SU-7 in addition to the MiG-21 and the MiG-21M, both indigenously produced. In addition, the air force obtained the Soviet SA-2 surface-to-air missiles.

The Indo-Soviet military cooperation was strengthened in all fields in the 1970s.

The army obtained more Soviet tanks, including the powerful T-72. The navy acquired more

F-class submarines and Petya-class boats and the Polnocny-class landing craft.

Added to the air force were the tactical fighter-bomber MiG-23 and the transport aircraft, AN-32, as also the MI-8 helicopters. The Manuchka-class missile Corvettes and the Kashin class missile-destroyers were also ordered.

During the Janata period, the Soviet air chief, Pavol S Kutakhov, came to India in April 1978. He presented to the Defence Minister Jagjivan Ram, a model of the improved version of MiG-23 (MiG-23M).

The Soviet Union apparently wanted to influence India against the Jaguar deal. But, Jaguar was chosen by India as the deep penetration strike aircraft. Nevertheless, the Janata Government negotiated with the Soviet Union for the purchase of the MiG-23 aircraft and the T-72 tanks.

In March 1982, Soviet Defence Minister Marshal Dmitri F Ustinov came to India with a high-powered delegation.

After 1975, this was the first visit of a Soviet Defence Minister to India.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi visited the Soviet Union in May 1985 and the Minister of State for Defence Production Sukh Ram and the Minister of State for Defence Research and Development Arun Singh, went to the Soviet Union in October/November, 1986.

When Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachyov visited India towards the end of November 1986, Minister of State for Defence Arun Singh held talks with Sergey F Akhromeev, first Deputy Defence Minister and chief of the general staff of the Soviet armed forces who accompanied Mr Gorbachyov.

Some more additions to the armed forces were made last year: the MiG-27 was inducted into the IAF.

Thus, with the MiG-29 joining the air force, the MiG series in the IAF will comprise the MiG-21, 23, 25, 27 and 29.

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CSO: 4600/1359

PAPERS REPORT ASPECTS OF INDO-SOVIET COOPERATION

Oil Supply, Construction Aid

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 7 Dec 86 pp 1 11

[Text]

NEW DELHI, December 6.

THE Soviet Union has agreed to step up crude oil supplies to India from 3.5 million tonnes to four million tonnes and is considering a proposal to increase it further by another 0.5 million tonnes.

India had submitted a list of its requirements in new areas of bilateral trade in an effort to achieve a balance since currently it is running a surplus which has gone up to Rs. 700 crores, as a result of the fall in international prices of oil.

The Soviet Union gives oil at market-related prices and facilities its delivery through an Iraqi port.

The terms of trade are favourable to this country since it saves hard currency and in times of a crisis and price spiral. The Soviet Union honours its contractual commitments.

Steel, diesel locomotives and chemicals are among the new items in which India has shown interest. The new shopping list has identified items worth Rs. 1,600 crores.

Some 70 areas of production co-operation have been identified, including automotive industry and textiles.

The Soviet Union will assign the construction of three hotels to Indian companies and this is an area of co-operation that is expected to grow fast, according to the Soviet delegation that held talks on bilateral economic terms here during the Soviet leader, Mr. Gorbachov's visit.

Since the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, and the Soviet leader declared that the trade turnover would go up two-and-a-half times by 1992,

the two governments are taking no chances with the implementation of new plans and programmes.

A special group is being set up to study the complementaries of the two economies and for suggesting how best the bottlenecks can be removed to achieve the stipulated rate of growth.

Because of the setback to bilateral trade in value terms reflecting the fall in international oil prices, it will not be easy to achieve the target but official sources here are confident. They point out that a communication gap at the industry level retarded growth in the past and this was being bridged.

The Soviet drive towards modernisation and its interest in the Indian private sector will also help. After all, the trade turnover was doubled during the period 1981-84. The annual growth rate had been 20 per cent.

The top Soviet policy body, the communist party politburo, has followed up the Gorbachov visit by promptly issuing detailed instructions to ministries and departments on collaboration with their Indian counterparts.

A series of visits has been already scheduled. Besides the high-level delegation on scientific cooperation, a Soviet delegation is coming here to sign a long-term programme for co-operation in the oil industry till the year 2000.

This delegation will be headed by the Soviet oil industry minister, Mr. V. Dinkov. The new programme will be drawn up following the decision on joint prospecting for hydrocarbons in West Bengal.

During this month, an Indian official delegation led by Mr. R. P.

Khosla, secretary ministry of steel and mines would visit the USSR for discussing co-operation in the ferrous industry.

DELEGATION COMING

A Soviet delegation is coming soon to explore areas of co-operation in the automobile industry. Heavy-duty dump trucks with a capacity of 110 tons could be one such area.

Such trucks are exclusively used in Soviet open-cast coal mining. The possibility of production co-operation in this field does exist, according to a preliminary review.

The Soviet minister for power engineering, Mr. A. Mavorets, will also come here soon to discuss on-going co-operation in this field as well as the construction of the Tehri hydro-power plant in UP.

For this project, the Soviet Union has granted a credit of 300 million rubles (Rs. 390 crores) to meet the local costs.

The Soviet credit of 1.5 billion rubles for the core sector projects has come at a time when the country's capacity to launch new major projects is limited.

Official circles are surprised by some "ill-informed criticism" of India's acceptance of the Soviet credit.

FRESH CREDIT

They see no basis for the argument that there was no need to take fresh credit since earlier credit had not been used. The earlier credits are also tied to projects which have a gestation period. The pace of utilisation is linked with the pace of implementation.

The impact of external involvement in projects on the utilisation of indigenous equipment was also studied. This has to be evaluated in the light of the indigenous resource position which in any case would not permit several new works.

In view of the unlimited requirements in the core sector, the only limit on undertaking new projects is placed by the availability of resources and hence a turn-key project does not preempt all business.

Then, while getting items such as steel structures from the Soviet Union, hard currency used for imported billets is saved though value added and employment for fabrication are lost.

Against this is to be weighed the economic benefits of a completed project. The Bokaro modernisation project, for example, will pay for itself in a few years.

The commissioning of hydel project such as Tehri will have a major impact on the economy of a vast region.

Optic Fiber, Other Technologies

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 7 Dec 86 p 5

[Text]

Optic fibre glass technology has been identified as one of the five frontier technologies for which joint research projects are to be set up in India with Soviet cooperation, reports IPA.

Optic fibre technology is seen to have a potential for revolutionary transformation in industry and in the world of communication during the coming decades.

There is a race on among leading industrialised powers, including Japan and the United States, for developing this technology. However, lately the Soviet Union has taken a lead in developing the technology, largely spurred by the high priority given to it by Mr Mikhail Gorbachev.

During the recent summit parleys, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi is learnt to have shown keenness for inclusion of fibre glass among the joint research projects on frontier technologies that are to be taken up with Soviet assistance.

Mr Gorbachev concurred with the Indian proposal.

The other frontier technologies for which joint research projects are to be set up are in the fields of plastics, steel pipes and spin-offs from space

research

Fluoroton, a wonder plastic composite which has virtually no wear and tear, is among the technologies identified for joint research by India and the Soviet Union. Another frontier technology identified for a joint research project is "synchrotron radiation", which has capability for transforming plastic into powder and then into entirely new materials having a variety of uses in crucial industrial applications.

Indo-Soviet research

Space research spin-off, such as artificial soil which has very high fertility, will be another technology for joint research project.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has announced that academician Marchuk, Soviet Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology, will visit India to discuss plans for launching the joint research projects in frontier technologies, which are expected to give Indo-Soviet science technology cooperation a major thrust.

Trade in Private Goods

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 12 Dec 86 pp 1, 10

[Text]

BOMBAY, December 11.

UNDER the Rs 3,800-crore trade protocol for 1987 between India and the Soviet Union

signed recently, about 80 per cent of the Indian goods to be exported to the Soviet Union would be from the private sector.

The Soviet Union has agreed to expand the basket of commodities to be exchanged under the trade protocol to maintain the trade balance.

India is expected to export goods worth Rs. 1,900 crores to the Soviet Union, while imports from Russia are expected to be around Rs. 1,800 crores.

Mr. V. A. Roubtsov, trade commissioner for the USSR in Bombay, said that there would be increasing contacts with private sector organisations in India in the field of trade as also for setting up joint ventures.

Mr. Roubtsov said that in the past, the trade was mainly with the public sector organisations in India.

Mr. Roubtsov said that 17 items would be discussed with the private sector in India in the field of machinery and equipment for joint ventures. Of these, three were expected to be finalised soon.

In the fields of welding equipment, production of mini-computers and colour TV sets, Indian and Soviet parties would come together for setting up joint ventures. There would also be progressive implementation of importing equipment parts from the Soviet Union and assembling them in India. He said definite results in respect of

co-operation between Soviet and Indian organisations could be expected next year in this regard.

In the trade protocol, 15 new products had been added for exporting from the USSR to India. The list of items for exports from India to the Soviet Union was also being extended.

Mr. Roubtsov said that a delegation from Crompton Greaves was currently in the Soviet Union for finalising an agreement for exporting electric fans and other products.

Mr. V. A. Shageyev, deputy consul-general for the USSR in Bombay, said that new solutions to solve economic problems and the country's relationship with other countries were under the consideration of the Soviet government. Certain ministries and establishments would be given permission to sell goods and services and enter into agreements with foreign parties directly.

Some Soviet organisations engaged in exports would be permitted to purchase goods from overseas, according to their requirements. This was being done to provide a stimulus to factories in the Soviet Union to sell quality goods overseas. Even in the past, a percentage of the profit earned by exporting organisations could be kept for imports. But this process was expected to be accelerated in future.

Mr. Shageyev said a consortium of Indian companies would set up hotels in Tashkent, Bukhara and Samarkhand

on a turnkey basis. The Soviet Union had already similar facilities with countries like Finland and Yugoslavia.

OIL EXPLORATION

He said the Soviet groups were exploring the possibilities of having co-operation with the Oil and Natural Gas Commission in the oil exploration. They had shown a keen interest to have oil exploration in Rajasthan.

Referring to the cultural exchanges between the two countries, Mr. Shageyev said that cultural festivals were being planned in both the countries next year. The Festival of India would be held in the Soviet Union in July-August 1987, while the Festival of the Soviet Union would be held in India in November-December 1987 to mark the 70th anniversary of the October Revolution.

He said the Festival of India would be held in the Lenin stadium in Moscow, having a capacity of 120,000 persons. It was planned to bring Russian circus to be shown in Indian cities. The cultural event would be a major one where about 1,500 participants from 15 Soviet Republics would participate.

There would also be sports exchanges, between the two countries. A delegation of the Soviet sports organisations would visit Bombay soon to work out the details. There would also be exchange of personnel from other fields.

Cooperation Protocol Signed

Madras THE HINDU in English 20 Dec 86 p 7

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Dec. 13

India and the Soviet Union today signed a new protocol on economic, scientific and technical cooperation between the two countries for the period until 2000 A.D. for the exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbon resources in this country. Mr. Brahmin Dutt, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, and Mr. V. A. Dinkov, Soviet Oil Minister, signed the protocol.

This was a follow-up of the agreements signed by the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, and Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party, during the latter's visit to New Delhi last month.

Soviet oil technologists have already begun geophysical and geological studies in the Cambay and Cauvery basins and onshore locations in West Bengal. Soviet assistance will extend to drilling and intensive exploration.

Mr. Dinkov told newsmen here after signing the protocol that equipment for taking up drilling operations in the Cambay and Cauvery

basins was now about to be shipped from the USSR, and the drilling was expected to commence next March. Geophysical surveys in these two areas, which were entrusted to the Soviet Union on a turnkey basis, had been completed.

Geophysical studies in West Bengal had also started, and he expected exploratory drilling operations to begin there in 1987. But major developments in drilling in West Bengal were not likely to take place before 1988, added the Soviet Minister.

In terms of the protocol, Soviet technologists will carry out seismic surveys in West Bengal, the Himalayan foothills, Tripura as well as the Cambay and Cauvery basins using new techniques like three dimensional surveys and mathematical modelling for seismic data interpretation.

The Soviet Union will assist the Oil and Natural Gas Commission in organising geophysical computer centres in a number of regions. Ae-

sistance from the USSR will also extend to the stepping up of extraction at existing wells and in activating idle wells. A number of new techniques will be employed to increase the productivity of the existing wells.

According to a press release of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, the protocol also provides for drilling in complicated geological conditions and for the transfer of technology.

During his stay in India Mr. Dinvok visited the Hyderabad plant of Bharat Heavy Electricals where drilling rigs are manufactured.

Cooperation in Medicine

Madras THE HINDU in English 20 Dec 86 p 7

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Dec. 19

Traditional systems of medicine, including drugs of Indian systems of medicines, herbal remedies and yoga are some of the new areas of cooperation identified in the Indo-Soviet Memorandum of Understanding signed on Wednesday by Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, Minister of Health and Family Welfare and the Soviet Health Minister, Dr. S. P. Bourenkov.

Mr. Rao referred to the recent visit of the General Secretary, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, to India and said it had strengthened Indo-Soviet cooperation and given it greater content. Reciprocating the sentiments, Mr. Bourenkov said one area where greater cooperation could be achieved was in the field of scientific and medical research.

Mr. Bourenkov and his delegation visited a number of health institutions in Agra, Bombay, Bangalore and Delhi. He said he admired the work of young Indian scientists whose work and potential could be compared to the best in the world. He was particularly impressed by the work being done in the Naval and Air Force medical centres in Bombay and Bangalore respectively.

The other areas of cooperation identified in the Memorandum are space and aviation medicine, transplant surgery, community care and control of Diabetes Mellitus.

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CSO: 4600/1352

SOVIET SCIENTIST DETAILS COOPERATION, JOINT RESEARCH

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 1 Jan 87 p 2

[Text]

"During their recent Delhi dialogue, Mikhail Gorbachev and Rajiv Gandhi reached agreements providing for an entirely new approach to cooperation in science and technology, opening up new vistas to experts in our two countries", says Mr G Marchuk, President of USSR Academy of Science.

"Soviet and Indian scientists will not only do joint research and development work in many fields, but will also put the results of their efforts into industrial practice. Research organisations in the two countries are to carry out joint projects aimed at surpassing top world standards in one or another field", he says.

Mr Marchuk is shortly visiting India to discuss plans for Indo-Soviet science-technology cooperation. According to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's announcement at his joint press conference along with Mr Gorbachev in Delhi on 27 December, Mr Marchuk is to discuss plans for joint research projects in certain frontier technologies which India and the Soviet Union will undertake in pursuance of the Indo-Soviet Summit decisions.

Writing on the new perspectives of Indo-Soviet scientific cooperation on the eve of his visit to India in the Soviet journal New Times, Mr Marchuk says

In the seventies, inter government agreements were signed on scientific and technical cooperation in the applied sciences and technology, agriculture, medicine, public health, and the peaceful utilization of atomic energy, as well as on cooperation be-

tween our two countries' Academies of Sciences. The agreements were supplemented with protocols on joint efforts in space research and other fields.

"Within the framework of the said agreements, Soviet and Indian research institutes and other establishments draw up cooperation programmes for years ahead. Under the programme for cooperation in the applied sciences and technology for 1984-87 alone, we do joint research on 22 major projects, involving 112 separate problems being tackled by 66 Soviet and 48 Indian research organisations. These efforts, which are being carried out on the frontiers of modern knowledge pave the way for further scientific and technological progress. Soviet and Indian researchers have joined hands in developing new energy sources (MHD generators, for example), powder metallurgy and catalysis techniques and new types of laser, as well as in meteorology, oceanography and corrosion prevention.

"Wide-ranging Soviet-Indian scientific cooperation has already borne ample fruit. Scientists at the Otto Schmidt Institute of Physics of the Earth (USSR) and the National Geophysical Research Institute (India) have been doing interesting research into the micropulsations of the geoelectric and geomagnetic fields for some years at the Chautuval (Andhra Pradesh) and Ettavapuram (Tamilnadu) observatories in India.

Soviet-Indian expeditions have carried out an in-depth seismic sounding of the Indian

Shield—a project important for locating the incidence of mineral resources with a high degree of accuracy.

Soviet-Indian cooperation in space exploration is making progress. Three Indian artificial earth satellites of the Bhaskara and Aryabhatta type have been launched by India, with Soviet assistance. A joint Soviet-Indian satellite tracking station has been functioning in Kavalur, Tamilnadu State, since 1977. Cooperation in this field culminated in the joint space flight by one Indian and two Soviet cosmonauts on board the Salyut 7-Sovuz T-10—Sovuz T-11 orbital complex in 1984.

Years of fruitful cooperation between Indian scientists and the Institute of High Temperature of the USSR Academy of Sciences in the development of new energy sources led to the commissioning of the first Indian MHD generator in Tiruchirapalli, Tamilnadu State, in 1985.

Other important spheres of Soviet-Indian cooperation are agriculture and medical science. Professor Svyatoslav Fyodorov, the Soviet ophthalmologist, has won truly nationwide renown in India. He has been there on many occasions to lecture and give demonstrations.

The agreement on basic direction of economic, trade, scientific and technological cooperation between the USSR and India for the period up to the year 2000 signed in Moscow in May 1985 marked a major advance in Soviet-Indian scientific and technical cooperation. It outlined the highways of interaction between the

two countries in science and technology, giving priority to biotechnology, laser research, cryogenics and other fundamental sciences, and in applied spheres, to energy production, the development of new materials and waste-free manufacturing processes, computer engineering and microelectronics.

While noting the progress made in Soviet-Indian scientific and technical cooperation, we realise that it should keep pace with the dynamic of Soviet-Indian relations as a whole.

During their recent Delhi dialogue, Mikhail Gorbachev and Rajiv Gandhi reached agreements providing for an entirely new approach to cooperation in science and technology, opening up new vistas to experts in our two countries. Soviet and Indian scientists will not only do joint research and development work in many fields, but will also put the results of their efforts into industrial practice. Research organisations in the two countries are to carry out joint projects aimed at surpassing top world standards in one or another field.

We are aware of the magnitude of the task, the implementation of which, through pooling Soviet-Indian intellectual potential, will make it possible to gear the latest advances of science and technology to the ambitious social and economic objectives that the Soviet Union and India have set themselves. This joint endeavour is certain to further consolidate friendship and understanding between our two nations." (IPA Service)

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CSO 4600/1353

ANALYST SEES GAINS FROM SOVIET AIR CHIEF'S VISIT

Madras THE HINDU in English 19 Dec 86 p 9

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text] The Commander-in-Chief of the Soviet Air Defence Forces, Chief Marshal of Aviation A. I. Koldunov, who is now on a five-day official visit to India, will be having extensive discussions tomorrow, both at the Air Headquarters and the Ministry of Defence, on the latest concepts of air defence in the face of highly sophisticated attack systems by conventional bombers as well as nuclear missiles.

As one of several Soviet Air Chief Marshals specialising in different areas of aerial warfare, he is reckoned to be an internationally renowned authority on conventional and electronic defences.

Apart from commanding a highly complex network of radar defences along the Soviet borders to detect and deal with an approaching threat before it becomes unstoppable, Marshal Koldunov's sphere of responsibility includes protection of major Soviet cities like Moscow and Leningrad and the main industrial establishments and strategic defence installations with a closely integrated network of ground based anti-aircraft defences against conventional raids and screens of latest energy weapons aimed at destroying nuclear missiles.

As such, his views on how a country like India in the middle levels of industrial development can set up its own air defence system with minimal assistance from abroad to deal with the threat of air attacks and cope with the Airborne Early Warning (AEW) capabilities of potential enemies would be of considerable interest to Indian defence experts.

Soviet developments: The Soviet Union has been developing over the last 10 years its own systems of air defence against the U.S. Airborne Early Warning and Control Systems (AWACS) in Europe which give the NATO forces the ability to see beyond the horizon, de-

tect the locations and movements of the Warsaw Pact aircraft and ground forces. The U.S., which had deployed earlier the older Grumman E-2s and Boeing E-3s besides P-3 Orions, is now using the latest Boeing E-3Cs which have massive nine-metre diameter rotodomes with horizontal and vertical apertures.

The AWACS provide a high degree of resolution of both air and ground movements, so that military operations can be conducted with quite an accurate picture of the forces deployed on the other side of the battle lines to a depth of 300 to 400 kilometres. The Indian defence planners are naturally keen on knowing what technological counter-measures the Soviet air defence forces have taken to meet this threat which would be a crucial factor under modern battle conditions.

Discussions in Moscow: The issue was discussed at some length when the Minister of State for Defence, Mr. Arun Singh, went to Moscow last month, accompanied by some senior military officers on the eve of Mr. Gorbachev's visit to Delhi. There were further exchanges on the subject with the Chief of the General Staff of the Soviet Armed Forces, Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev, when he accompanied Mr. Gorbachev on this visit.

The invitation to pay an official visit to India was extended long ago to Marshal Koldunov by the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal D. A. La Fontaine. So his present visit has not been arranged at short notice as a sequel to the talks that Marshal Akhromeyev had in Delhi, although the discussions he is now having are a follow-up of the exchanges that took place during Mr. Gorbachev's visit.

After his discussions with the Air Chief and his principal staff officers, Marshal Koldunov will call on Mr. Arun Singh at the Ministry of Defence. Mr. Arun Singh who has been on a goodwill visit to Poland is due back in Delhi tonight.

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CSO: 4600/1356

PAPERS REPORT DEVELOPMENTS ON BORDER WITH PRC

Chinese Improve Highway

Madras THE HINDU in English 18 Dec 86 p 1

[Text]

The Chinese are reported to be making many improvements of the 1,280-kilometre (800-mile) long Karakoram highway linking Kashgar in Xinjiang (Sinkiang) in Central Asia with Islamabad in Pakistan through the 4,800-metre (16,000 ft.) high Khunjerab pass along the old silk route, because of its increasing strategic importance.

Apart from the straightening or strengthening the alignments at several places, reinforcing the bridges and providing asphalt cover to the rugged road surface along the 480-km (300-mile) stretch on the Chinese side, the link road that has been built connecting the Aksai Chin highway through Xaidullah and Mazar has also been improved to provide quicker access for Chinese forces to enter Pakistan from both Xinjiang and Tibet.

The 800-km (500-mile) section of the Karakoram Highway extending from Khunjerab pass through Gilgit to Islamabad, built with Chinese assistance, is in a relatively better condition with more modern bridges and easier gradients than the older 480-km stretch from Kashgar on the Chinese side. It has been paved with asphalt all the way from the Khunjerab pass except in some stretches that are subject to frequent landslips.

But what is significant is that the Chinese are improving this high altitude road system at enormous expenditure because of its high strategic importance. They have built a new 80-km branch road from Taxkorgan in Xinjiang along the Karakoram highway towards the Wakhan corridor in Afghanistan where there is a fairly large concentration of Soviet forces.

The borders of the Soviet Central Asian Republic of Kirghiz, which are even closer from Taxkorgan, are also linked by feeder

roads to facilitate quicker movement of Chinese troops from Xinjiang side. It is the easier accessibility to the Wakhan corridor and the Kirghiz area, coupled with the link up with Pakistan through the Khunjerab pass and the alternate link road across the 4,700-m (15,000 ft.) high Mintaka pass, that have given the Karakoram highway great strategic significance. As there is no comparable road network anywhere else in the world with such a high degree of military importance, it is not surprising that as many as 5,000 Chinese and 10,000 Pakistani troops are engaged more or less permanently on either side of the Karakoram to maintain it.

The Soviet Union has been using its intelligence satellites to regularly monitor the movements on this Karakoram road system for keeping an eye on Chinese troop dispositions. The United States has perhaps better facilities to track the Soviet presence in the Wakhan corridor as part of its aerial surveillance of Afghanistan.

The Indian defence experts are, no doubt, concerned about this vast logistical network developed by China impinging on the country's security in the Western sector through Aksai Chin and Pakistan occupied Kashmir. But they are not taking too gloomy a view of this development in India's security environment, because a good bit of the Karakoram highway passing through glaciers and river valleys can be blocked in times of war by interdictory bombing attacks at some selected points.

The Karakoram like the Himalayas which is only a few thousand years old is relatively a young mountain area which can be easily disturbed by bomb explosions leading to major landslips. At present there are no big military movements, but the whole road network has been built, at this high altitude to facilitate quicker troop deployments and transport of heavy equipment.

Indian Officials Confident

Madras THE HINDU in English 20 Dec 86 p 9

[Text]

There is a reassuring manifestation of quiet confidence, free from deceptive overtones of excessive complacency, among the top Indian Army brass that they would be able to thwart any fresh Chinese attempts, after the high Himalayan mountain passes reopen next summer, to make further incursions across the McMahon line and establish military posts at some strategic points to reassert their territorial claims in the eastern sector with a view to pressuring India to make matching concessions in the West by giving up Aksai Chin.

In the last six months since the Chinese intruded into Sumborong Chu Valley and occupied the Wangdong that has been held for the last several years by Indian security personnel during the summer season, the India Army has taken a series of steps to improve the logistical position of its troops stationed in Arunachal Pradesh all along the McMahon line to secure the more important mountain routes and deny control of the pivotal passes that provide access to the southern side.

Apart from building new border roads and improving the old mountain tracks, the Indian Army has also reinforced its garrisons to strengthen the presence at strategic points, depending on the extent of Chinese deployments to the north of McMahon line. The Army Chief, Gen. K. Sundarji, and the GOC-in-C of the Eastern Command, Lt.- General J. K. Puri, and other senior Army officers have visited the area to inspect the defences and make doubly certain that the Indian forces would be able to cope with any new Chinese threat.

The only place along the 2,000-kilometre long Sino-Indian border where Indian and Chinese troops have been facing each other at close range is Nathu La in the Chumbi Valley between Sikkim and Bhutan, while everywhere else whether it is in Ladakh or Arunachal Pradesh the two armies have remained at a distance. But now the Indian and Chinese troops in the Tawang area are well within sight of each other across the border at several points.

One disadvantage of moving closer to the border, even if it is to block strategic passes, is that the Chinese can find some way of getting across and establishing posts behind the Indian positions as they did both in the Western and Eastern sectors before the 1962 conflict. But in the present-day situation it would be extremely

hazardous for them to attempt such pincer moves without running a serious risk of Indian counter-moves to cut off their supply routes.

The current Chinese strategy is primarily political and not military since the main purpose of the Sumborong Chu intrusion in June last was to remind India that they have not abandoned their notional claims to 90,000 square miles of Indian territory across the McMahon line. It was intended to drive home the point that these claims can be given up by China only in the context of a comprehensive border settlement involving a corresponding Indian renunciation of its jurisdiction over Aksai Chin.

The policy of India is not to submit to these Chinese pressures, but it has no intention either to resort to any military action to recover the territories under Chinese occupation. The Chinese also are not unaware of India's capacity to check effectively any major incursions across the McMahon line in the prevailing military situation.

The Chinese have built in the last 25 years many more roads, airfields and other military installations in Tibet, apart from linking the Chinese railhead at Lanzhou (Langchow) with Lhasa by a road pending the extension of the railway line. According to defence experts these logistical facilities give the Chinese a capacity to engage 250,000 troops in a 30-day war or 150,000 in 60-day long military operations along the Indian borders from Aksai Chin to Arunachal Pradesh, if they are able to bring in reinforcements from Xinjiang (Sinkiang) side as well.

But the Indian army, too, has improved its operational capabilities enormously since 1962 by improving the border roads and stationing more or less permanently 12 mountain divisions specially trained and equipped for high altitude warfare. The Indian troops deployed along the Himalayas have superior fire-power besides much bigger air support to back them in the event of another conflict.

So in this equally balanced military situation there is little likelihood of a major war between India and China in the foreseeable future. But some politically motivated forays by China at some vulnerable points to assert its territorial claims as a bargaining counter cannot be ruled out altogether and what is really important in this context is that India is now much better prepared to meet such challenges without the risk of a major escalation.

Indian Troops' Restraint

Madras THE HINDU in English 25 Dec 86 p 9

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

The Chinese troops that crossed over the Than-drong ridge in June to set up a camp at Wangdong in the Sumdorong Chu valley of Tawang district have been patrolling the area, looking around for any tell-tale evidence of Indian military movements along the McMahon line following this intrusion.

One such Chinese patrol came recently within whistling distance of an Indian platoon on a similar mission in the vicinity of Sumdorong Chu valley, which has become a bone of contention in the wake of this unfortunate development.

The Chinese soldiers did not open fire or resort to any provocation other than making some strange noises to shoo away the Indian troops from what they considered to be Chinese territory. But when the Indian patrol did exactly the same in return signalling them to move away from the Indian territory, the Chinese came closer, shouting 'Hindi-Chini-bhai-bhai' before proceeding in a different direction.

Concern in Delhi: This amusing, but nevertheless provocative incident, which portended in a way what the Chinese might try to do on a bigger scale after the winter months to reassert their territorial claims, has been the subject of some concern in Delhi about the possible motivations in intensifying their patrolling at this time. But the Indian troops have been exercising the utmost restraint and refraining from over-reacting to the Chinese pressure tactics to avoid any untoward incidents, while firmly adhering to their ground positions.

There are 200 to 300 Chinese troops camping at Wangdong in the Sumdorong Chu valley despite the very severe winter conditions. The patrol that crossed the path of the Indian platoon presumably belonged to this contingent which has been ordered to stay put in this area roughing out the snowstorms.

Averting confrontation: An attempt will, no doubt, be made at the next round of official level talks, if and when they take place in Delhi, to avert the dangers of an unintended confrontation through miscalculation or over-reaction. But the Chinese continue to maintain a rhetorical posture of injured innocence, as they

did at the last round of talks in Beijing, asking how China can be expected to withdraw its troops from Chinese territory in the face of the persistent Indian attempts to "push northward" across the McMahon line.

There are three strategic passes in the vicinity of the Sumdorong Chu valley — Sulu La, Tulung La and Hathung La — which provide access to the Tawang area, in addition to Zing La which is at some distance. The Indian army has taken steps to ensure that the Chinese do not control these passes when they reopen after the winter so that the country is not subject to more surprises.

Risk of coming face to face: Along the lengthy Sino-Indian border extending over 3,500 km, the only sector where Indian and Chinese armies have been facing each other at close range is the Nathu La area between Sikkim and Bhutan, while everywhere else, whether it is in Ladakh or Arunachal Pradesh, they have remained separated by 10 to 20 km on either side. But, now in the Sumdorong Chu valley, the Indian troops have a post at a higher level from where they can watch the activities of the Chinese at the camp they have set up at Wangdong, with the result that patrols from either side have to contend with the risks of running into each other unintentionally at times.

The two countries appear to be equally keen to avoid such clashes while they are still engaged in an on-going dialogue to settle the border dispute. The question is how to evolve a set of mutually acceptable ground rules without prejudice to their respective positions for maintaining peace and tranquillity in all sectors even if the two armies are not called upon to reduce their presence on either side.

Idea abandoned: And as India sees it, one way of doing is to leave the disputed areas like Sumdorong Chu valley unoccupied by both countries to eliminate the kind of frictions that have developed in the area following the Chinese intrusion. At one stage, the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, wanted to write to his Chinese counterpart suggesting some such understanding pending a final settlement, but the idea was abandoned when nothing emerged from the talks the Foreign Ministers of the two countries had at the U.N. on the subject.

Arunachal Rejects Claim

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 30 Dec 86 p 4

[Text] **Itanagar, Dec. 29 (PTI,UNI):** The Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly at its special session today strongly condemned China's reaction on the conferment of statehood the former Union territory.

The House affirmed that Arunachal Pradesh had been an integral part of India and people of Arunachal were the "first and foremost citizens of India."

Initiating the hour-long discussion, Mr Tadik Chije and Mr R.K. Khrime, MLAs, said China had no business to oppose the constitutional rights of the people of Arunachal Pradesh to attain statehood since they were never "historically, culturally and politically" related to

China.

They said China had boundary disputes not only with India but also with Soviet Union, Korea, Kampuchea and Japan. This reflected Chinda's "expansionist designs," they said.

The chief minister, Mr Gegong Apang, said China should not "unnecessarily interfere in the internal affairs of Arunachal Pradesh or India." He said its claim over Arunachal Pradesh was "illegal, unfounded and baseless."

The House unanimously adopted a resolution to thank the Union government, particularly the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, for granting statehood to Arunachal Pradesh.

Visiting Chinese Communists

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 30 Dec 86 p 1

[Text] **New Delhi, Dec. 29:** The visiting Communist Party of China (CPC) delegation today called on the AICC(I) foreign cell convenor, Mr Romesh Bhandari, at his office and had an "exchange of talks" on several issues but avoided the border dispute between the two countries.

Earlier the CPC delegation met the CPI(M) general secretary, Mr E.M.S. Namboodiripad, for three-and-a-half hours but the outcome of the talks has been kept secret.

The Chinese ambassador to India also joined the delegation. Mr Bhandari however, said it was just a "courtesy call" at their own initiative and there was no formal discussion on any

topic.

There were discussions on disarmament, the recent Delhi Declaration during the CPSU general secretary Mr Mikhail Gorbachyov's visit and Indian commitment to it. No point was raised on the border dispute in Arunachal Pradesh by either side.

The Chinese delegation also had over an hour-long meeting with the Forward Bloc leader, Mr Chitta Basu, and sought to know the party's opinion on the Arunachal Pradesh issue. Mr Basu told the Chinese delegation that India was competent enough to take a stand on the issue.

PRC Silence on Talks

Madras THE HINDU in English 1 Jan 87 p 1

[Text] There is no move yet either from the Indian or Chinese sides for holding the next round of official level talks to continue the discussions on the border dispute.

It is China's turn, in accordance with the established practice, to suggest tentative dates as a guest country since the next round is going to be held in Delhi, but so far China has not given any indication when it would like these talks to take place.

As the last round of talks were held in Beijing in July, the two countries should be thinking in terms of the next one in the not too distant future. But as there was a virtual deadlock over the Sumdorong Chu incident during the last round of talks with China maintaining that it cannot be expected to withdraw from Chinese territory, there is some doubt whether Beijing is interested in having the next one soon, since the same issue is going to be raised in one form or the other again.

But meanwhile India and China continue to exchange delegations at different levels. After the recent Chinese Communist Party delegation, a team of senior editors from the People's Daily is due to visit India soon. It would be followed by a return visit of some prominent Indian journalists in spring or early summer to keep up the continuity of these contacts.

The outside world is waiting to see what turn the current wave of student demonstrations will take in the next few months; whether these will peter out or assume the dimensions of a border

agitation for internal liberalisation. Though the Chinese Government has blamed some agent provocateurs from Taiwan for instigating these student demonstrations, it is inconceivable that these rallies could have taken place in several cities without some political support from a section of the Chinese leadership if not the Government.

It was Mr. Deng Xiaoping himself who encouraged the wall-poster democracy during 1977-78 to uphold the role of the late Prime Minister Zhou Enlai, but the campaign eventually led to the downfall of his successor Mr. Hua, Guofeng nominated by Chairman Mao himself before his demise. The latest wave of student demonstrations are taking place a few months before the next party Congress in September when the General Secretary, Mr. Hu Yaobang, is expected to come forward with suggestions for changes in leadership after Mr. Deng's proposed retirement, followed by proposals for economic liberalisation.

The Government of India has to wait and watch what shape all these developments would take, whether China would like to keep issues like the Sino-Indian border dispute in abeyance or adopt a more strident attitude. The Chinese intentions will become clearer only after the winter snows melt and the strategic mountain passes open along the McMahon Line.

The absence of interest on Beijing's part in suggesting a date for the next round thus assumes some significance in this context.

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CSO: 4600/1354

MINISTER ANNOUNCES NEW EXPORT PROMOTION SCHEMES

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 3 Jan 87 p 1

[Text]

Commerce Minister P Shiv Shankar began the New Year with a major effort to boost exports by announcing on Friday several export promotion schemes, including a near carte blanche to exporters to import goods and materials free of duty for export purposes and the setting up of yet another free trade zone at Vishakapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.

"I am confident of meeting this year's export target of Rs 12,203 crore", he told newsmen, pointing out that exports have already climbed by 16.7 per cent in the first six months of the current financial year. "Reports are trickling in of our export performance in the subsequent months and they show that the rising trend is continuing", he added.

The measures announced by the minister are of great significance for exporters. The advance licensing scheme (ALS), by which exporters were allowed to import duty-free goods for export purposes, has both been expanded and simplified. Instead of re-

stricting themselves to the existing 145 items that feature on the ALS list, exporters can now import anything, including consumables, subject to the ALS committee's okay.

Much of the procedural hassles will, therefore, disappear. The decision to allow import of consumables also indicates the Government's genuine desire to boost exports, for, consumables unlike goods, cannot be shown in the end product meant for export. Therefore, a more relaxed import-export norm is likely to be stipulated by the Commerce Ministry and the ALS committee when the decision comes into force through a notification.

Two other concessions announced for those availing the ALS are, compensation for exporters incurring losses due to exchange fluctuations and simplification of bank guarantee procedures by introducing a revolving bank guarantee for exporters instead of them having to furnish a fresh bank guarantee for each ALS.

The decision to set up the country's seventh free trade zone at

Visakhapatnam comes in the wake of the Commerce Ministry's recent announcement to boost such trade zones. Mr Shiv Shankar said that talks have been held with the Andhra Government and a Central team will leave for Vishakapatnam within a fortnight to work out the details.

The minister said that the new free trade zone should be in operation within a couple of months. Work on the infrastructure will begin at first. To begin with, the ministry will release Rs 17 crore towards the initial work. Talks with the Finance Ministry and the Planning Commission will be held for the rest of the necessary funds.

Speaking generally on the trade scenario, Mr Shiv Shankar said that because of better exports in the first six months of 1986-87, the trade gap has been reduced by Rs 742 crore, or, 18 per cent. Imports have gone up by 1.1 per cent in the same period, from Rs 9142 crore to Rs 9239 crore.

There has been a significant increase in the import of machinery and components in this period and such imports amounted to Rs 740 crore.

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CSO: 4600/1353

VILLAGERS RAISE 'DEATH SQUAD' TO OPPOSE EVICTIONS, ORISSA RANGE

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 20 Dec 86 p 14

[Article by Debmuni Gupta]

[Text] **V**ILLAGERS in the sprawling Baliapal block of this district have raised a 5,000-strong "maran sena" (death squad) in a determined effort to prevent the eviction of an estimated 41,000 people from 54 hamlets for the proposed national test range project.

"We shall face bullets but not surrender the land," they proclaim and appear all set for a showdown. They have barricaded virtually all the entry points along the roads leading to the block and dug trenches to prevent any vehicle from entering the area. Baliapal lies fortified, a forbidden zone for the entire administration.

The villagers blow conch shells and beat "thalis" at the sight of any government vehicle, and within minutes the groups of onlookers swell menacingly into a large crowd. The crowd raises slogans, voicing its determination and solidarity. Not surprisingly, the chief minister, Mr. J. B. Patnaik, has kept postponing his proposed visit to the area.

As government employees at Baliapal and the district headquarters in Balasore recall, the then acting block development officer and his staff had been gheraoed by a slogan-shouting crowd a fortnight ago. Mercifully, at the intervention of some local leaders, the crowd let off the government employees.

The new appointed Balasore collector, Mr. Pnyabrate Patnaik, concedes that the three wings of the government are non-functional in the Baliapal block and says the district administration is seized of the persistent threat to the law-and-order situation. He attributes the peaceful bandh on December 5 mainly to the restraint on the part of the law-and-order machine.

Meanwhile, tension in the area is mounting with the anti-national

range action committee having decided to launch a "jail bharo andolan" early next month and the district administration gearing itself to restore normalcy.

Personnel of the Orissa state armed police deployed in the area have been camping on the local high school, thana and PWD premises. The collector estimates the strength of the force at a company, but the action committee says it is "much more".

Both the action committee leaders and the district authorities admit that development projects in the area have come to a standstill, as has the routine administrative work. While the notification for acquisition of land for the project has been published in the press from time to time, covering only 29 of the 54 villages to be acquired in the Baliapal and Bhograi blocks of the district, copies of the notification could not be affixed in the areas to be affected, as is statutorily required. Nor could any individual notices be served.

COLLECTOR'S WARNING

"Test range or no test range," says the young collector, who visited the project site incognito a few times after assuming office last August, "none has the right to paralyse the administration and we have to restore normalcy." He stresses the district administration's resolve to "exhaust all peaceful attempts to restore normalcy", but adds that the authorities would be prepared "to use force, if it comes to that."

The villagers charge the administration with provocations such as alleged attempts to block the supply of essential and controlled items into the area, lodging of "false" complaints and court cases, misleading them about the extent and potential as well as the purpose of the project, deployment of forces and harassment and intimidation of their leaders.

The district administration counters the charges, saying that a section of the agitators has been indulging in anti-social activities such as blackmarketing in essential items, extortion of funds, social boycott, intimidation, assault and interference with the functioning of the government.

A block-level official alleges that some of the local leaders have been extorting money from the villagers on the grounds of sustaining the agitation, arrangements for the last bandh, their visits to Delhi or receptions to visiting opposition leaders.

DECISION IN 1979

The collector had called a meeting of about 200 sarpanches and ward members on November 28 to impress on them the authorities' bona fides on the proposed Rs. 127-crore rehabilitation scheme. None attended the meeting, except one ward member "who for all we know might have been sent by the agitators themselves to hear all I had to say."

The decision to set up the national test range at Balipal was taken in 1979 for the testing of rockets and missiles and the launching of satellite for scientific and defence purposes. As for civil uses, the polar launches will help in gathering scientific data relating to crops, mineral resources and flood control.

An expert committee of the Union government had found the Balipal-Bhograi area as the "only suitable site" in the country for the project after examining alternative sites in the Andaman and Nicobar islands, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Rajasthan, West Bengal and Satbhaya in Orissa. According to the project authorities, the siting of the national test range was re-examined in 1980 and 1985, reportedly at the insistence of the state government. But the earlier decision could not be reversed.

The original proposal for the project envisaged the acquisition of 130 villages in the two blocks, threatening the displacement of about 12,000 families accounting for over 70,000 people. The ministry of defence has since revised the project parameters to acquire altogether 54 villages — 41 in Balipal and 13 in Bhograi — which will

displace 6,500 families comprising 41,000 people and cover an area of 102 sq. km.

But the villagers, who justifiably boast of their district as the granary of Orissa, have misgivings about the project, the Rs. 200-crore compensation plan and the rehabilitation scheme. They fear that the project will ultimately be extended to envelop not only the original area proposed but also areas outside the periphery. The project authorities' repeated assurances that there is no proposal to set up any nuclear or atomic installation in the area and that no further acquisition of land is envisaged for expansion of the project have cut little ice with the villagers.

SOME RESTRICTIONS

The rehabilitation scheme has yet to take off. The acquisition of 41 villages in the Balipal block, which forms sector 'A' of the project, for its major installations, rules out any cultivation in the area. However, the 13 villages in the Bhograi block, forming sector 'B' of the safety zone, will be available for cultivation by temporary lessors on payment of the prescribed rent to the defence authorities. The cultivators will have no ownership rights. Nor will they be allowed to have any houses in the area.

There will be certain restrictions during notified periods on the movement of cultivators in the area, as well as on the large number of fishermen who will also be displaced but allowed to carry on fishing off the coast.

The project authorities concede that owing to the shortage of agricultural land it is not possible to rehabilitate the families economically by giving them cultivable land. A strategy has, therefore, been evolved to offer job opportunity to one member of each displaced family under direct and self-employment schemes.

But all the government's schemes are gathering dust as its writ does not run in the area and as it has lost credibility with the people it seeks to serve. "The villagers will not vacate their land whatever the compensation," says Mr. Sashadhar Pradhan, the Balipal panchayat samiti chairman and a local Janata Party leader.

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INDIA (IN BRIEF): FACILITY LAUNCHING PLAN

New Delhi, 1984 (PTI) in English by P. R. J.

Text Bangalore, Jan 5 (UNI)—The Augmented Satellite Launching Vehicle (ASLV) would be launched in the last week of March this year. Minister of State for Science and Technology K R Narayanan has said.

He told newsmen here last night that the third and fourth stages of static tests for the ASLV were successfully completed. The new types of motors for the ASLV have been tested a few days ago and the latest stage of test completed on 30 December.

Dr U R Rao, secretary, department of space, said that during the first phase, the ASLV would be engaged in technological studies on gamma ray. The vehicle would carry sophisticated equipment for these studies, he added.

An Indo-West German experiment on stereoscopic remote sensing would be the second phase of this programme scheduled for 1988, Dr Rao said. This would be done by Indian satellites.

The pre-shipment review of INSAT-1C would be held next month. The satellite would be launched in February 1988 by the Ariane rocket. The INSAT-1B was expected to last till December 1989 and therefore there was no need to worry about the delay in the launch of INSAT-1C, he said.

Dr V Gowarikar, secretary, department of science and technology, said the Union Cabinet had decided to set up a technology information forecasting and assessment council. One scientific adviser would be appointed in every economic department and there would be sector committees under this

council, he added.

Dr Gowarikar said the research and development expenditure in Government-related institutions alone had gone up from Rs four crore in 1951 to Rs 2,160 crore in 1985. One per cent of the GNP was spent for this purpose and India was among the 16 countries in the world spending one or more per cent of their GNP on research and development activities, he added.

Dr A P Mitra, director-general, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) said an MST (mesospheric, stratospheric, tropospheric) radar would be set up at Tirupati shortly. The Rs seven crore radar has been designed indigenously.

An agreement for the manufacture of required equipment for the radar installation would be signed on 12 January. This national facility would be a major development in the field of atmospheric dynamics, he said.

The first phase of this project would be completed within two-and-a-half years and the full facility would be ready in four years, Dr Mitra said.

He said the CSIR laboratories were also engaged in earthquake prediction studies. Space technology was very useful in this regard and all the available facilities were being used for earthquake analysis studies, he added.

Regarding the wasteland development programmes, Dr Rao said 183 districts had been identified and eleven classifications had been done from space as part of this project. Satellite studies had revealed a fall of 12 per cent in the torse, cover between 1974 and 1984, he said.

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CSO: 4600/1358

PLAN FORMULATED TO STRENGTHEN BORDER SECURITY

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 27 Dec 86 p 9

[Text] THE Border Security Force has drawn up a five-year plan for raising the strength of its force in West Bengal. The details of the plan were discussed at a co-ordination meeting in Calcutta on Friday in which senior officials of the State Government and those of the BSF were present. The stress will be on putting a check on infiltration of Bangladeshis across the border, official sources said.

More border outposts will be set up and additional BSF battalions will be raised, the sources said. The distance between border outposts will be brought down so that there can be better patrolling of the border areas. Mr R. P. Sharma, the I.G. of BSF, said after the meeting that the State Government was requested to repair the PWD roads in the border areas.

At present, there are 14 battalions of the BSF deployed in the State. The plan to increase the strength has already received the sanction of the Centre. Mr Sharma said that deployment of more BSF personnel would help prevent border crimes and smuggling across the border as well.

Concern was expressed at a co-ordination meeting of Border Security Force and Bangladesh Rifles officials held in Calcutta over the rise in the number of

people entering India illegally across the Bangladesh border. The three-day meeting, attended by senior officials of the two forces concluded on Wednesday.

A Press release issued by the BSF said the number of illegal entrants from Bangladesh apprehended on the border had increased from 9,700 to 12,500 between 1984 and 1985. Till November 1986, this figure was over 17,500. "This suggests that an increasing number of people from Bangladesh are coming across the border".

The BSF officials stressed that this should be checked. The BDR promised that it would cooperate to check infiltration by Bangladesh nationals.

Smuggling across the border has also increased. It was noted at the meeting. The value of total seizures made by the BSF increased from Rs 1.81 crore in 1984 to Rs 2.20 crores in 1985. In the current year, till November, the total seizure was valued at Rs 2.37 crore. But cattle lifting and other border crimes have gone down with the arrest of a number of "border criminals". Over 2,500 such people were held this year. The BDR promised to seize the cattle missing from border villages in India and hand them over to the BSF. The release said there was no distinction in the Indian and Bangladeshi criminals.

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CSO: 4600/1363

BENGAL FRONT RELEASES CORRECTED MANIFESTO

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 3 Jan 87 p 1

[Text] THE ruling Left Front on Friday released a "corrected" copy of its election manifesto inserting a description of the Gorkhaland movement as "anti-national". While releasing it, Mr Saroj Mukherjee, the Front chairman, explained that the word "anti-national" had been dropped "by mistake" from the "proof copy" of the manifesto circulated to the Press on December 28.

The "proof" copy had said that the State Congress (I) leaders had first agreed to move a resolution in the State Assembly or the proposal of the all-party meeting called by the Chief Minister to discuss the Gorkhaland movement but backed out after the Prime Minister made "contradictory" remarks. In the amended copy, it was recalled that the all-party meeting had adopted a resolution calling the movement "anti-national".

Referring to newspaper reports that the omission in the first copy of the manifesto was deliberate, Mr Mukherjee maintained that there had been no change in the attitude of either the CPI(M) or

the Front to the GNLF stir. He read out from the CPI(M) publication pamphlet on the agitation which characterized the movement anti-national.

The Front chairman maintained that the GNLF president, Mr Subash Ghisingh, had indulged in an "anti-national" act by writing to the United Nations and several countries such as Nepal, Pakistan and China about the Gorkhaland demand. "We would stop calling the movement anti-national only if Mr Ghisingh withdraws these letters", he said. But even then, the demand for a separate State would continue to be "secessionist".

The purpose of the visit of Mr Rathin Sengupta, the Chief Secretary of the West Bengal Government, and Mr R. K. Bhattacharya, the Director General of Police, to Darjeeling will be to assess the requirements of the police posted there and to see if the police were being deployed properly, Mr Bhattacharya said in Calcutta on Friday. The two top officials will leave for Darjeeling on Saturday and stay there for a day.

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CS(1) 4600/1364

STATE GOVERNMENT CURRENT ACTIVITIES (BRIEF)

New Delhi PATRIOT in English (1), Dec. 30, 1971 (p. 1)

(series of articles by "Assamman")

(31 Dec. 71 p. 1)

Text

Guwahati, Dec 30 — The complex issue of illegal immigrants remains the most difficult problem in Assam even after a year and a half after the signing of the much heralded accord between the Centre and then AASU president Pranab Kumar Mahanta.

filtration from across the India-Bangladesh border still continues both in the Dibrugarh and the Karimganj sectors. The proposed erection of "physical barriers" along the international border is yet to get off. And not much progress has been made in the plans to construct a road along the border to facilitate better patrolling.

In the evening hour of Satrasal village, located at a stone's throw from a Border Security Force outpost, a young lad told this correspondent that he had been across several times. Counterparts from Bangladesh also said it took only a few steps to step out of the border into the Haor. He said:

Admittedly, the crossing over has been curtailed to a certain extent because of the intensified surveillance of the BSF. However, it is impossible to completely seal the 268 km border, a great portion of which is riverine. As a BSF official said in Dibrugarh, "It is impossible unless there is a human wall all along."

The BSF finds it harder to detect those who have managed to slip in. The physical features, the language, the dress and even the religion of the people living on the two sides of the border

are identical. The immigrants who come into Assam can do so quite easily. Hence lies a continuing dilemma. Along the riverine 100 km stretch from the Dibrugarh, Nagaon and Dhemaji districts, the BSF has to patrolling, suspect someone to being a Bangladeshi and how does he prove his charge when Joseph Hilaire is awaiting to write on the subject of "proven".

The answer was in the proposed road along the border has been completed in the Dibrugarh sector. (The road is still a dirt one, however). The road, although 100 km long, will have to make them that serve the purpose. However, it will have to be secured. And a almost certain that there will be open a possibility of a 100 km long perhaps 40 km long border.

According to the state government, it would be allowed to travel between the road to be constructed a distance of 100 km from the border and the border itself. The road will be benefitting a number of tribes and setting the people elsewhere.

The proposal will be implementation of policy (Maitri) of the Assam government. In the year of 1970, a major north-eastern case for the border, in 1971, the only 100 cases have been confirmed to the Assam, though most of them have been turned down by the immigration department. The Tengchong has been able to apprehend 400. Most of them have been packed back. The Bangladeshis by the BSF under the cover of darkness to the Bangladesh. Tengchong refuse to accept them back in many cases. And

quite a few of them have to go through to Dibrugarh as Chief Minister Mahanta insisted.

The road to Dibrugarh has been completed and the road between Tengchong and Dibrugarh has been completed but no steps to cut the road has been taken and, during the construction of the road, they will have to be paid for and submitted to Mahanta.

The Assam Government has been trying to get the state of Assam to amend the Hindu Migrant (Leased and Tenancy) Act (HMLTA).

It was the idea of providing power allotted from the compensation to the Assam Government, the removal of the clause stipulating that the compensation and fees within state will from the arrested foreigner and the wages of the Rs. 20 per day labour community. The State government considers this case for compensation to be done in view of the "proposed" Salween" and the initiation of these steps to solving the difficulties in the construction (border) of the international border.

Despite the problems about the statement and the constitution of the migrants, another problem may have been the non-acceptance of the Tengchong registration office.

The Mahanta government is under-standing and, at present, till the Assam government to solve the Registration issue. And Mahanta government had no comment of without assistance from the Centre. His periodic visits against the Centre's inaction in which the local implementation of such law, among the issue arise as well as to implement

Assamese people that the fault lies at the Centre's door steps.

However, time is running out for him. The people, particularly the AASU, are becoming impatient. If concrete steps are not taken by both the Centre and the State, Assam may be in for another protracted, and this time more acrimonious, agitation.

(To be continued)

[1 Jan 87 r 1]

[Text] Guwahati, Dec 31--Getting the much heralded Assam Accord implemented is not the only daunting task facing the year-old Prafulla Kumar Mahanta Government. The northeastern State today is faced with a complex set of multifarious problems which need immediate attention and the most tactful handling.

The biggest of these problems is related to the sharp divisions that have surfaced in the Assamese society during the six-year All Assam Students Union (AASU) agitation on the foreigners issue and the consequent erosion of communal harmony that had hitherto been the hallmark of Assam.

The State has three distinct groups now--the 'genuine Assamese' on whose behalf the agitation was launched, the minorities among whom a deep feeling of insecurity has developed and the tribals who feel that their own linguistic and cultural identities may be swamped as the young leaders of the Assam Government go about the task of putting the Assamese culture and language back on the rails.

Each of these groups sees its interests clashing with those of the others. There are serious apprehensions regarding the accord among both the minorities and the tribals, even as the euphoric Assamese clamour for the implementation of the accord in letter and in spirit.

For the minorities, it is the fear of harassment in the name of the detection of foreigners. Already several instances of bogus complaints have been noticed. And there are serious apprehensions that if the Assam Government succeeds in getting the illegal Migrants Detection Act amended to shift the onus of proof against the alleged foreigner, a flood gate of motivated complaints may be opened up. As a villager in Nellie told this correspondent, 'we have our backs to the wall. But we cannot fight. They are too strong numerically and also have the might of the police on their side.'

The minorities' misfortune is increased by the fact that they are faced with trouble from two ends--the aggressive Assamese as well as the tribals. It should be remembered that it were people belonging to the Bodo tribes who had descended in thousands upon the villages in Nellie, indulging in the most sorry massacre in which thousands were killed. (sentence as published)

The tribals, or at least the tribal politicians, on the other hand, seem convinced that the implementation of Clause 6 of the accord which stipulates

constitutional guarantees to protect the language and culture of the Assamese language on them. They have managed to stave off an attempt by the AGP government to make Assamese a compulsory third language in non-Assamese medium secondary schools by threatening an agitation on the issue. but they know that the Government has only suspended the operation of the controversial SEBA circular and not withdrawn it.

In the flush of victory in the protracted struggle, the Assamese see no reason why their language should not be made compulsory throughout the State. The AGP leaders too insist that they will go ahead with it.

Much will depend on how the young AGP leaders handle the situation. So far they have not shown any great

adeptness in the delicate tasks that the seat of power involves. Conceptually they have yet to come to grips with the multitudinous problems the diverse people in the State face.

Mr Mahanta's concept of the "model villages" along the border will suffice as an example. He told a group of newsmen from New Delhi that the Government would settle ex-Army men and others whose loyalty to the unity and integrity of the country could not be doubted, in the border villages. That on one hand would suggest that the present lot of villagers there - mostly the minorities - are not reliable. It would also imply that they would have to be shifted out for people whose loyalty was not in doubt.

When a newsmen pointed out to the Chief Minister that the move would entail shifting a whole lot of people and the question of their rehabilitation and asked whether the Government had worked out these details, Mr Mahanta admitted that it had not "Details are still to be worked out". Mr Mahanta said little realising that such a move would only increase the apprehensions and

the feeling of alienation among the minorities

On the other hand is the question of development. This aspect really suffered during the agitation. Now the State is making a start despite the resource constraints. The jute mill it has opened in Nagaon district is a commendable achievement. But the working conditions in the mill, run by the State Government, are very hazardous.

The workers who have all chances of acquiring the deadly fibrosis, have only a two-bed hospital!

The educational front is beset with a horde of problems. The expectations on this front, particularly because the "boys" in the Government were students only a year back, are high. But getting the Guwahati University whose session is late by almost four years and the Dibrugarh University with its rather complex problems back on the rails will be difficult. Already AASU activist have begun to criticise the government's non-performance on this sector.

(To be continued)

(2 Jan 87 p 1)

[text]

Guwahati, Jan 1 — The Assam accent and the style of functioning of the Assam Gana Parishad (AGP) Government has not only intensified the feeling of alienation among the tribals, but has given a fillip to their movement for a separate State.

Leaders of both the Plains Tribals Council of Assam (PTCA) and the

United Tribals Nationalist Liberation Front (UTNLF) now find "easier" to convince the tribal youth that the aggressive drive by the AGP to "protect" the Assamese language and culture would lead to the virtual swamping of the tribal heritage.

A dominant section of the tribals have now begun to believe that their

ethnic identity can only be protected if their dream of Udayachal is achieved. The proposed state comprises almost the entire tract of Assam land lying on the north of the Brahmaputra.

So far the demand for a separate State has not gone beyond the occasional memoranda submitted to the Centre by PTCA and UTNLF leaders.

but plain facts are not to be denied. The tribal leaders say that in the later half of this year

of the two organisations the UTNLF seems to have an edge largely because of the more militant posture. In the last one year it has recruited many in the south from the Kukhrihar and the Dibang valley districts.

The party has also gained in strength in the south. The tribal leaders attribute this to the recruitment to the Assam civil Students Union (ASUS). The basis are the same as those of the tribal leaders.

At the same time the ULFA has lost ground because of the increased pressure of the AGP. The party leaders of the ULFA say that the AGP has been Assam's best friend. They say that the Assam government has been instrumental in the formation of the ULFA. They say that the ULFA has been rendered irrelevant by the formation of the ASUS. The tribal leaders say that the ASUS has been instrumental in the formation of the UTNLF.

— (To be continued)

Report of Assam ULFA as an extremist organisation that has come up in the State of late

The UTNLF, whose chairman Basumatari has received a threatening letter, alleges close links between some AGP ministers and the ULFA.

For the time being the AATSU and the UTNLF are planning strategies to thwart the State government's plans for eviction of alleged tribal encroachers. According to the intelligence reports the UTNLF is preparing the tribal youth to be ready for a "bloody confrontation" to defend tribal rights and there are reports of a large number of guns having been acquired by the tribals for the purpose.

There are also indications that the UTNLF has links with the Norkha National Liberation Front and that it is trying to form a common front of all ethnic movements being launched for the formation of separate states.

What is worrying some tribal leaders is that Basumatari, an ex-service man that been active in contemplating the formation of an underground tribal force when he was with the ULFA. It is not certain whether he has given up the plan now.

— (To be continued)

Government issued an advertisement for applications for the posts of lower division assistants making it a pre-condition that the applicants possess a knowledge of Assamese language.

This was in sharp contrast to the assurance that the tribals of the State had been given at the time of the passage of the Assam Official Language Act in 1960 by then Chief Minister B P Chaliha. The violation of this commitment by the AGP had foreclosed all future job opportunities for the plains tribals and other ethnic and linguistic minorities, the tribal leaders felt.

The tribals are also not a little apprehensive because of the State government's determination to free the forest areas and government lands of encroachments. The tribal leaders point out that the tribals living in forests for centuries had been suddenly turned into encroachers when the Indian Forest Act was adopted in 1954. The zealous implementation of the Act by the State government would lead to millions of tribals being rendered homeless.

But what worries the tribal leaders the most is the systematic elimination of tribal minority and opposition leaders through murders by the United

Front. But fear does make people do things that they regret later", his voice was barely audible.

How do they feel now with the state in the hands of the young Assam Gana Parishad Government has provided?

The harassment has become less now but still continues. But who knows if pogroms can be kindled again. The one that did break out just as it did at the height of partitioning in 1983 with the Assamese Brahmins inviting the tribals to eliminate the Bengalis.

Chowdhury is not a foreigner. His father and late wife his grandfather, were his residents of the village. They had withdrawn to the safety of their fields. He is afraid that if and the process of partition begin in his area, some day they might file a false complaint against him.

Several others also nodded in agreement. They have heard of the harassment being a Muslim's face in other parts of the State. Most Bengali Muslims in Assam share this fear.

Interestingly, these people voted for the AGP candidates in the last election. "It was a matter of survival. We

Nellie, Jan 2—Nearly four years have passed since the horrible massacre in Nellie and surrounding villages. However, the passage of time has not lessened the pain of wounded memories that haunt the people of the memory of the massacre here.

The villagers still shudder whenever they remember that day of February 1981 when hordes of Hindu and Leasing tribesmen had descended upon the area like locusts carrying the traditional bows and firearms and mercilessly butchered men, women and children. According to estimates more than a thousand were killed. Hardly a house was left standing.

In Amlangia, one of the villages which had paid a heavy toll in the terrible year of carnage, Nur Chowdhury sits on his porch. He says he is not a Hindu but he looks much older with his receding hairline and the furrowed wrinkles.

"What can I say? It was horrible. They killed my wife and six-month old son. I can never get over the guilt of having run away leaving them to their

did not want to make them angry. No good would have come out of it", said a wizened old man.

Another man standing nearby added: "From now on, the Muslims in this area will always swim with the tide. Whoever looks like winning, will get our vote".

The people here are thankful to the AGP Government for the prompt relief given to them when floods had devastated the area during the last monsoon. But many people are yet to get compensation for the nightmare of 1983. Whatever they got was during the Saikia regime.

The forebodings are not unique to the residents of Nellie. They are shared by the Muslims from all other minority dominated areas of Assam — in Cachar, Goalpara, Dhubri, Barpeta, Mongoidoi, Tejpur and Nawgaon. With the Bengali Muslims so uncertain of their future, it is not surprising that there is no clear cut trend in their politics. They had elected United Minorities Front candidates in most of the areas during the last elections. However, they are not too sure now. Some of the Muslim youth feel they

had made a mistake. "For the first time, perhaps, the Muslims have not been able to bargain for a share of power", said a youth in Guwahati.

The Congress leaders are watching the scene carefully. They have begun working among the Muslim youth to wean them away from the UMF back into the Congress fold. And the feeling that either the UMF will become closely allied to the Congress or suffer an erosion in the years to come is becoming stronger.

However, neither of the two parties are in a position to remove the deep sense of insecurity that the minorities face. They have done precious little against the Assam Government's marked preference for "agitation sufferers" while filling vacancies now. And since hardly anyone from the minority community was a part of the agitation, they are being left out though of the 1,700 known deaths between January and March 1983, as many as 1,079 were Bengali Muslims.

They can do little except leave things to their fate and hope that better times will come back.

(To be continued)

[4 Jan 87 p 1]

[Text]

Guwahati, Jan 3 — The cooling relationship between the All Assam Students Union (AASU) and the ruling Asom Gana Parishad is, perhaps, the most striking feature in the Assam scene today.

Catapulted into the chief ministership of the State by the six-year agitation on the foreigners issue, former AASU president Prafulla Kumar Mahanta seems to now realise that the seat of the chief administrator of the State is full of thorns and hard decisions must be taken even if they antagonise his erstwhile colleagues in the powerful students union.

The AASU activists on the other hand are beginning to become a little impatient by the tardy progress in the detection and the consequent deportation of illegal immigrants as well as the compromises that the State Government is being forced to make on basic issues like the language policy.

Occasionally, there are also direct clashes between the Government and the body of students as happened on 6 November when the AASU forced a Statewide bandh in protest against the Diwali police firing in which a student leader, Parikshith Burman, was killed.

In a massive procession in Guwahati, AASU activists demanded the resignation of their former general secretary and now Home Minister Bhrigu Phukan for the police atrocities. To Mr Mahanta's credit, it must be pointed out that he stood by his colleague even as rumour mills of a rift between him and the Home Minister worked overtime. The Chief Minister strongly defended the police firing when the matter was raised in the State Assembly and the realisation that the AGP had to sever the umbilical chord from the AASU began to dawn all around.

On the other front, AASU activists too began pressurising their leaders for

a totally independent approach and extort a commitment from them that should the need arise, they would be willing to fight the AGP government for the protection of students' rights and interests. AASU leaders admit now in private conversations that while they have no problems whatsoever in galvanising their ranks into action on most issues, it is doubtful whether the body of students would pour out on the streets in defence of the AGP government.

The AASU is disappointed with the AGP on several scores. They are angry that the education department suspended the SEBA circular making Assamese the compulsory third language in non-Assamese medium schools. It should not have been suspended just because a "few people" from the Barak Valley and the plains tribals objected, said an office-bearer of the students union and pointed out that when the present set of rulers were

in the AASU they were all signatories to the four-language formula that was to be followed in all schools. English, Hindi, Assamese and the mother tongues were identified as the four languages.

The disillusionment pertains mostly to the functioning of the Education Ministry. AASU organising secretary Atul Bora told this correspondent that they had expected a lot from the AGP on the education front especially as the present lot of ministers were students only a little over a year ago. "But they have totally failed in education".

Mr Bora lists the failure of the Government to provide free textbooks and school uniforms at the primary level, the regularisation of the Guwahati University session (the 83-84 examinations are due to be held in March this year) and the lack of any initiative to solve the various problems of Dibrugarh University, and charges that Education Minister Goswamy has

been doing nothing but expressing 'utopian dreams'.

Another AASU leader said that the present lot of ministers were no better than their Congress counterparts forever assuring that the memorandum that the union had submitted three months back was under "active consideration".

Some of the ministers have also drawn comparison with the Congress style by their rather ostentatious living. Transport Minister Lalit Raikhowa, whose marriage last year is reported to have been attended by over 25,000 people is the 'principal accused' in this connection. Asked what he thought of this, Mr Atul Bora gave an embarrassed 'no comment'.

While the AASU leaders believe that the AGP MLAs are doing a 'fairly good job', they are particularly angry at the functioning of the party MPs. Except Mr Dinesh Goswamy, they feel

not one of the MPs is really interested in raising the problems of the State. "They will not be forgiven", says a leader.

On record most of the AASU leaders are a little embarrassed to talk about the performance of the AGP. "One year's time is too little for them to have done much", was the comment with which AASU organising secretary Atul Bora started his conversation with me. Half an hour later, after he had listed several instances of 'failures' of the Government, he concluded: "they could have done a lot in one year".

Mr Bora also said that the AASU would be willing for a year more for the AGP to deliver what they had promised during the polls. After that "we may have little option", he adds ominously.

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CSO: 4600/1353

REPORTAGE ON MEETING OF BHARATIYA JANATA COUNCIL

National Executive Meeting

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 2 Jan 87 p 6

[Text] **Vijayawada, Jan 1** — The national executive of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) today demanded a thorough probe into the foreign exchange holdings by non-resident Indians, which, according to its estimate, comes to a colossal figure of Rs 30,000 crore.

Releasing the resolution on the economic situation adopted by the executive on the concluding day today to newsmen at a news conference, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee said that the Rajiv government had made no effort to probe them effectively, "possibly because it is more than likely that a big scale of the holdings would be traceable to politicians and their families in power".

He said Indian capital hidden in Singapore and Hong Kong might be 20 times more than that of in Swiss banks. He said it was estimated by an expert of the International Monetary Fund that every year about Rs 44 crore were poured into the secret bank accounts in Switzerland and that this sum was only the tip of the iceberg.

He said the BJP viewed with alarm the growing scale of "invasion of our economy by the multinationals". In the process, Mr Vajpayee said that, some of our national units like Sindri Fertilisers were being jettisoned. In order to restore the economic health of our country, the BJP executive suggested the following eight points:

1. BJP's charter of farmers rights be implemented.
2. Policy of indiscriminate liberalisation of import in the name of modernisation and introduction of hi-

tech should be replaced by the policy of selective import liberalisation. The present policy has resulted in strengthening the hold of multinationals on the Indian economy and needs to be reversed.

3. Foreign collaborations should be permitted only in starting strategic and sophisticated lines of production

4. Industrial policy should lay greater emphasis on the production of wage goods and generation of employment, and the basic principle of subsidies and concessions should be enlargement of employment and not merely output expansion.

5. Economic offenders including smugglers and foreign exchange manipulators should be expeditiously prosecuted.

6. Immediate steps be undertaken to unearth the secret accounts of Indians in Swiss and other foreign banks and the guilty should be punished.

7. There is need for the revival of Swadeshi spirit and for the use of less capital intensive technologies.

8. An expenditure commission to examine the reasons for cost escalation of various projects in both Plan and non-Plan sectors be appointed.

Lanka issue: Former External Affairs Minister Vajpayee said the Indian Government should put "more political pressure" on Sri Lanka to find a solution to the ethnic problem, add agencies.

Mr Vajpayee replied in the negative when asked if the BJP favoured a military intervention as India did for the liberation of east Pakistan.

Asked if political pressure by India would not be tantamount to interference in Sri Lanka's internal affairs, Mr Vajpavee said "technically yes". But we are directly affected, he added.

Earlier in his report presented to the party's national executive BJP Scheduled Castes cell president Suraj Bhanu said legislative measure providing for stiff punishment for non-implementation of the reservation provision should be taken.

Reservations: The party demanded that the Centre publish a white paper on the implementation of Article 335 of the Constitution that provides for reservations to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in government services and educational institutions.

The report claimed that as much as Rs 150 crore under the head of "special component plan", meant for the uplift of the downtrodden had gone unutilised in the sixth Plan.

Advani Addresses National Council

Madras THE HINDU in English 3 Jan 87 p 7

[Text] The BJP President Mr. L K Advani has demanded imposition of President's rule in Punjab with a security zone created without delay all along the north-western border, the setting up of a commission on electoral reforms to examine the suitability of the presidential system as a device to contain centrifugal tendencies and adoption of proportional representation with photo identity cards to all voters. He also said the country must have a nuclear deterrent of its own.

In his two-hour presidential address to the BJP National Council in session at the Deendayal Upadhyaya Nagar here today, Mr. Advani rejected the demand that all Opposition parties must unite and seek to oust the Congress (I) from power. At the practical plane the politics of aggregation must be understood, he said adding that most of the Opposition parties also sailed with the Congress (I) on broad national issues.

A buffer: Describing the Barnala Government as a shock absorber and a buffer between the people's anger and the Central Government, he said it had outlived its utility having lost the confidence of both the principal sections of the Punjab population. He said the demand for the dismissal of the Union Home Minister Mr. Buta Singh, should be understood as a demand for the ouster of the Prime Minister Mr. Rajiv Gandhi.

Reading out a list of 15 BJP workers who were shot and killed in Punjab by the extremists he said the terrorists in Punjab were not concerned with river waters or Chandigarh but only with Khalistan. So if the Prime Minister expressed his readiness to hold talks with the terrorists it could only mean he was expressing his willingness to discuss the Khalistan issue. Mr. Advani said.

Mr. Advani outlined a six-point approach to solve the Punjab problem. This was to impose President's rule in that State, create a security zone from Jammu and Kashmir through Punjab and Rajasthan to Kutch in Gujarat, call in the Army to assist the civil authorities, expose Pakistan's nefarious role by publishing a White Paper on foreign involvement in Punjab, take

adequate administrative precautions to prevent counter-violence and punish those who had killed innocents.

The BJP President said it was wrong for the Government to have initially refused to set up an enquiry into post-Indira Gandhi assassination. After a big public campaign was launched such an enquiry was instituted, but the Government refused to make the report public.

The BJP National Council meeting is being attended by 758 delegates from all over the country, including the party legislators and MPs and one delegate from each parliamentary constituency elected by the basic units. Mrs Vijayaraje Scindia, party vice-president, unfurled the national flag. On behalf of the reception committee, Mr. Advani and other leaders were honoured at the function.

Mr. Advani said Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's volte face on the Anandpur Sahib resolution, his agreement with Mr. Liedenga on Mizoram and his statements on Gorkhaland lend strength to that school of opinion which regards India as a State of many nations instead of one nation with many States. "The BJP rejects this thesis of a multi-national State because India is multilingual, multi-religious but one nation."

Mr. Advani suggested that the commission on constitutional reforms could also study what would contribute more to the strengthening of the nation and whether a decentralised unitary setup could help with some 60 provinces instead of 20 odd as at present. The commission should study the need to redraw the political map of India with the needs of development and administration as the principal consideration. Ad hoc responses to agitations had resulted in having States varying in size from half a million to a hundred million, he said.

Abuse of media: Mr. Advani said abuse of the electronic media to promote the ruling party's electoral ends had crossed all bounds in the recent elections. Projection of the Prime Minister's personality cult seemed to be the established Doordarshan policy. In the first half of December, he said Mr. Gandhi had got the first lead in 10 out of 15 days on Doordarshan and on one of these days three leads out of six pertained to the Prime Minister. He demanded autonomy for radio and television and until this was

granted the election coverage in these media should be monitored by the Election Commission

He also criticised the recent entry into the Congress (I) of the Sharad Pawar group of Congress (S) and the alliance struck between the Congress (I) and the National Conference of Dr. Farooq Abdullah

Mr. Advani alleged that Mr. Pawar dreamt of becoming a non-Congress (I) Chief Minister of Maharashtra but when he was defeated in the Assembly elections he started "knocking at the doors of Congress (I). The best time for Mr. Pawar's home-coming was during the Congress centenary in Bombay, but at that time the Prime Minister was riding high and there was no time for him to hear the knock. But today the Prime Minister has become weak and so he is encouraging the Pawar group helping it to merge with the Congress (I).

Mr. Advani said the Kashmir Government had published a White Paper stating that Dr. Farooq Abdullah was a British citizen, that he held talks with leaders of the Kashmir Liberation Front and Khalistan terrorists abroad and that he was an anti-national. But suddenly all these vanished and an alliance was reached

This was nothing but a sheer display of opportunism, he said

The BJP leader said Mr. Gandhi's second year in office was worse than his first year and that all indicators were pointing downwards except one—prices. The Prime Minister's management of the economy had been disastrous with the yawning trade gap increasing by 66 per cent and with foreign debt standing at Rs 30,000 crores. The debt service ratio would touch 30 per cent this year. Besides, black money holders had about Rs. 30,000 crores in secret funds in foreign countries and a big slice could be traced to the politicians in power, he said. He wanted a full-scale enquiry into the secret holding of funds abroad

Mr. Advani said the security environment around the country had deteriorated. "We want a nuclear-free world but when dangers face the country our response cannot be half-hearted and India must go in for a nuclear deterrent of its own."

Monumental blunders: He said the Prime Min-

ister committed two monumental blunders in the year, the first, succumbing to the Muslim League backed communal campaign against the Shah Bano judgment and second the decision to have a pact with Mr. Laldenga and making him the Chief Minister of Mizoram with special rights. These two decisions sent a message loud and clear to every one that the present Government in Delhi could go to any length and make any compromise to buy peace.

The extremists in Punjab read the message and the pro-Pakistani elements in Kashmir and pro-Gorkha National Liberation Front elements in Darjeeling were encouraged by this message. The unrest in the country could be traced directly to these ill conceived and myopic decisions which had put a premium on a group's capacity to disturb the peace.

Party constitution amended: The BJP National Council amended the party constitution today providing that nobody would hold the office of president of any unit for more than two terms and introducing a new condition that every member would contribute one day's wages once a year on February 10, the death anniversary of Deendayal Upadhyay, for the party fund. Twenty members proposed about 60 amendments ranging from changing the party flag from its present composition of green and saffron to only saffron to having a retirement age for members one-man-one-post principle etc. But all these proposals, were rejected by the council.

Relations with neighbours: Mr. Advani said India's relations with neighbouring countries continued to worsen, particularly with Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Referring to the recent talks between officials of India and Pakistan, Mr. Advani said: "If Pakistan is earnest about its formal stand against terrorism let it be made to hand over the pro-Khalistani extremists who have taken asylum in Pakistan."

Towards the end of the session, Mr. B. Agnihotri, who was introduced as the Chancellor of the Southern University in Louisiana State in the U.S., participating as a guest speaker, said Indians abroad wanted to see the country united and strong.

Code of Kisan Rights

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 4 Jan 87 p 9

[Text] THE Bharatiya Janata Party today appealed to farmers all over the country to force the Union government to drastically revise plan priorities and development patterns and to ensure remunerative prices for agricultural produce.

The national council of the BJP today adopted the charter of rights of kisans drafted by the party executive.

With a view to making efforts to change the present urban orientation of

the party and for expanding its organisational base in rural areas, the BJP is gearing up its machinery to woo farmers in north India to cash in on the weakening Lok Dal hold on the peasantry.

The BJP will organise farmers' conferences at the state level to educate them on their rights. The first farmers' conference is scheduled to be held in Lucknow on March 6.

Mr. Kalyan Singh, leader of the BJP group in the Uttar Pradesh legislative assembly, initiating the debate over the

charter of rights of kisans, said that it was not true that the party had its base only in urban areas. He said the BJP would become the national alternative to the Congress only through a successful consolidation of its base among the peasantry.

Mr. Kailash Joshi, the leader of the opposition in the Madhya Pradesh legislative assembly, seconding the document demanded that the scheme of granting tree lease to farmers should be immediately started by the government.

The documents gave facts and figures to show how farmers and farm labour had got a raw deal, though constituting 70 per cent of the total population, in allocation of development resources right from independence.

The charter listed ten basic rights of kisans. These are: remunerative prices

for produce; abundant and regular supply of water and power; protection from the vagaries of nature; compensation for losses suffered; security of crops from wild animals and theft; traditional rights on village forests and "nisar" land; minimum facilities such as drinking water and roads; market value compensation in one instalment in the event of land acquisition; adequate wages to the farm labour and just and responsive administration.

An amendment suggested by Mr. Raghavji of Madhya Pradesh, was accepted by the national council. This pertained to the demand of a complete ban on cow slaughter in the country as a right of the kisan.

Another amendment suggesting a direct link between the price of agricultural produce and the price index was also accepted. It was moved by Mr. Satyapal Saiani of Pathankot.

Vajpayee Summing Up

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 5 Jan 87 p 1

[Text] THE three-day national council meeting of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) concluded here today with a resolve to fight the ensuing assembly elections in five states on its own.

Summing up the deliberations, the former party president, Mr. A. B. Vajpayee, asked the party units to prepare for an eventuality of a mid-term poll due to a possible split in the Congress.

He believed the situation might deteriorate to such an extent this year that the ruling party might resort to mid-term poll.

"The Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, is finding it difficult to manage dissidents in the party and in case of a defeat in Haryana and Himachal Pradesh in the assembly elections, the Congress party might split," he said.

Mr. Vajpayee reiterated the party's resolve to maintain a separate identity as a dissident ideological pole by not joining any alliance of opposition parties.

However, the party will enter into understandings with other opposition parties for seat adjustments on an ad hoc basis. There would be no arrangement with the Communists and "communal parties" like the national Conference and the Muslim League.

In a bid to enthuse the party cadres demoralised by the recent election debacles, the party has given a call to its workers to "March to Delhi, save the country" (Delhi chalo, desh bacahao). The party strategy is to counter the Congress slogan of "save the country".

The party will organise a massive demonstration before Parliament on February 23.

Vijayawada is a known communist-dominated area, and the national council meeting was held here to show that the party had developed some pockets of influence in the southern states, Mr. Vajpayee said.

The "charter of rights of kisan" incorporated in the economic resolution of the council is considered as an effort of the BJP, an urban party, to move into rural areas. Another factor which ensured eager debate on the charter was the party's bid to fill the vacuum created in the north by the split in the Lok Dal.

As a follow-up action, the party has decided to organise farmers' conferences all over the country beginning in Lucknow on March 7, where over 500,000 farmers are expected to turn up.

The economic document turned out to be a criticism of the government policies and failures without throwing up any new idea. Most of the time the discussion was on the rights of kisan.

The amendment to the kisan rights charter demanding total ban on cow-slaughter and the emphasis in the presidential address of Mr L K Advani on integral humanism propounded by the late Deendayal Upadhyaya were pointers to the party's shift in emphasis from Gandhian socialism.

Mr Advani had made it clear that the BJP would fight the Telugu Desam in Andhra Pradesh, and co-operate with it at the Centre. The party has not devised means to counter the tendency of regional parties with their aggressive stance on regional issues cutting into its base.

RESIDENTIAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English, 7 Jan 87 p 1

[Text]

THE President, Mr Zail Singh, might refer back to Parliament the bill amending the 90-year-old Indian Post Office Act empowering the government to censor letters and other forms of mail.

This observation was made by the Bharatiya Janata Party president, Mr L K Advani, while addressing a media press programme organised by the Vijayawada press club.

"The president will be doing a signal service to democracy if he decides to exercise his constitutional authority by referring back the bill for reconsideration to Parliament," Mr Advani said.

Lashing out at the government, he said such anachronistic provisions had no place in the present circumstances. He criticised those in power who believed that a benevolent form of dictatorship was a better form of government giving them authority to decide what was good for the country.

When asked whether a cold war was going on between the President and the Prime Minister, Mr Advani said he was not aware of such a situation. However, he strongly pleaded for honouring certain institutions like that of the President of the republic in the interest of strengthening democracy.

The President cannot veto any bill approved by Parliament but he can certainly refer it back to the Parliament

for reconsideration. Mr Advani observed.

Mr Advani clarified that the BJP was not advocating the presidential form of government but it should be considered as an alternative for tackling the centrifugal forces threatening the unity of the country.

When reminded that the entire opposition had opposed the presidential form of government when the idea was initiated by Mr A R Antulay and Mr Vasant Sathe, Mr Advani said: "The situation was different then. Mrs Indira Gandhi was concentrating power in her hands in such a manner that the change in system would have led to a dictatorship. Now the situation is entirely different."

"The BJP believes that the status quoism would not be good for the country in solving the growing threat from centrifugal forces represented by Khalistan, Mizoram and Gorkhaland. I have merely posed a question for debate to find out whether the presidential form of government would be in a better position to deal with divisive forces."

The party felt that a decentralised unitary form of government should also be considered to find out whether it would be a better set-up to deal with the present situation, he said.

Replies to a question whether he was in favour of smaller states, Mr

Advani said: "I am not asking for a new map of the country. What I have suggested is setting up of a commission on constitution to consider whether it would be better if we have over 60 janapads (provinces) based on administrative and economic viability. This does not mean that language should not be considered a basis for deciding provinces."

The bigger sizes of some of the states have resulted in backwardness in certain areas. For example Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh have become unwieldy. There is nothing wrong if there are more units speaking the same language like Vidarbha in Maharashtra."

Mr A B Vajpayee, who was felicitated by Mr Advani for completing 60 years also supported the view that there should be an open debate on the issue of adopting the presidential form of government. "This does not mean that the BJP is committed to the presidential form of government. The party is now ready with an open mind to discuss the issue."

"I am not advocating the presidential system of government because Mr Vajpayee stands second after Mr Rajiv Gandhi as a national leader in popularity as reported in a section of the press. Mr Gandhi is popular because of his post and family background. On the contrary Mr Vajpayee has national appeal because of his dedicated service," Mr Advani said.

More Details Given

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 5 Jan 87 pp 1, 9

[Article by S. Rajappa]

[Text] Two Bharatiya Janata Party leaders, Mr Arif Beg and Mr Murli Manohar Joshi, today accused the Congress(I) and the CPI(M) in West Bengal of encouraging infiltration from Bangladesh to build up their vote banks. In a resolution at the concluding session of the BJP national council meeting here, they warned that heavy and continued influx of aliens from Bangladesh and Pakistan posed a grave threat to the nation's security, integrity, stability and economy.

Mr Atul Behari Vajpayee, the party's leader in Parliament said in his valedictory address that the BJP would not remain a silent spectator when innocent people were being butchered in Punjab and thousands of infiltrators were entering the country.

Moving the resolution on infiltration, Mr Joshi, the BJP general secretary, said the threat posed by it was all the more grave because it was well planned and there was very little public awareness of its dimensions and consequences.

Mr Arif Beg, secretary of the party, who seconded the resolution described infiltration as a "demographic invasion of India". According to a survey conducted by the BJP, infiltrators from Bangladesh and Pakistan had crossed the 10-million mark, he said.

Mr Beg said that had it not been for India having "the weakest Prime Minister" since independence, no country would dare send its nationals as infiltrators. The BJP had no use for vote banks at the cost of the nation's integrity and security, he said.

The resolution said that on the western front, there was continuing infiltration into Jammu and Kashmir with a view to promoting anti-Indian forces. Terrorists trained in Pakistan had been sneaking into Punjab and, more recently, infiltration had gained momentum in Rajasthan and Gujarat as well.

The situation in West Bengal, the resolution said, was equally alarming. Reports of the State Home Department revealed that every year about 550,000 Bangladeshi infiltrators entered West Bengal and their total had crossed four million. Instead of preventing this infiltration, the CPI(M) Government in West Bengal and the Congress(I) Government at the Centre, had been extending patronage to the aliens.

In Rajasthan, the districts of Ganga Nagar, Bikaner, Jaisalmer and Barmer and the Kutch area in Gujarat had been the targets of the ever increasing Pakistani infiltrators, the resolution said. Once entrenched, they sought political patronage and got themselves enlisted as voters.

In the opinion of the BJP, this massive influx of Pakistanis and Bangladeshis was a clever move not only to shed excess population in their respective countries, but also to create a belt of aliens along the Indian side of the border, threatening the nation's security.

The resolution called for issuing identity cards with photographs attached to the people in the border areas detection and deportation of infiltrators, rehabilitation of former servicemen along the borders to provide a natural defence to the country and deletion of the names of foreigners from the voters' list and revision of electoral rolls.

The council adopted a resolution on infiltration, another one to declare Tripura a disturbed area and a third seeking abrogation of the Jammu and Kashmir Citizenship Amendment Act which provided for the return of those who had migrated to Pakistan.

"Delhi chalo, desh bachao", was the call given by Mr Vajpayee. He wanted party workers to join a massive march to Delhi on February 23 to focus attention on the failures of Rajiv Gandhi Government on all fronts.

Mr Vajpayee said the major political development in the past few years was the growth of regional parties as witnessed in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Tamil Nadu. Though the BJP was opposed to changing over to a presidential form of Government when it was first mooted a decade ago, in the changed circumstances a debate on the sub-

ject was in order. He endorsed the suggestion of the party president, Mr L. K. Advani, who wanted a commission to be set up on the Constitution to examine the suitability of the presidential system as a way of containing centrifugal tendencies.

Mr Vajpayee expected a split in the Congress(I). If it failed to win a majority in the coming Bihar Legislative Assembly elections, The BJP would fight the election in alliance with the Lok Dal, he said.

Maintaining that a national party alone could emerge as an alternative to the Congress(I), Mr Vajpayee pointed out to the contradiction in the present political situation in which the Telugu Desam, a regional party, was the single largest group in the Lok Sabha while the BJP, an all-India party, had only two seats. He called upon his party workers to prepare for the next Lok Sabha elections which could take place sooner than 1990.

Mr Vajpayee said Mr Gandhi, by giving into internal pressures, had created an impression that foreign countries, too, could take India for a ride. It was this "lack of confidence" in him that made Mr Gandhi's foreign policy, particularly in dealing with Pakistan and Sri Lanka, a dismal failure, he said.

The BJP has decided to launch a nation-wide movement for identifying and deporting all foreigners who have overstayed in India, adds UNL.

The BJP wanted Mr Gandhi to adopt a strong and clear-cut policy on the Sri Lankan ethnic issue and pressure Colombo for an early solution.

Expressing grave concern over the reported acquisition of nuclear arms by Pakistan, the council wanted India to go nuclear. "That does not mean that we are not in favour of world peace", he observed.

/13104

CSO: 4600/1355

FOOD MINISTER SAYS GRAIN STOCK POSITION SATISFACTORY

Madras THE HINDU in English 3 Jan 87 p 9

[Text] The Union Food and Civil Supplies Minister Mr H K L Bhagat today expressed his satisfaction at the foodgrain stock position in the country. Speaking to pressmen here he said that with 15.1 million tonnes of wheat and 7.9 million tonnes of rice the position continued to be comfortable.

The Government was taking various measures to increase the production of oilseeds and oil so that self-sufficiency could be achieved in edible oils. The import of edible oils was being restricted and the support prices of edible oil seeds had been raised by about Rs 15 to 20 a quintal. On account of these measures and the sluggish trend in the production due to drought there had been some increase in the price of edible oils. But he implied that this might be a sort of blessing in disguise as the higher prices might serve as a further incentive to the producers.

An additional three lakh tonnes of levy sugar was to be made available annually to the consumers through the public distribution system. This was mainly on account of the fact that sugar had so far been allotted to the States and Union Territories on the basis of the estimated population as on October 1, 1983. From February 1987 however the States quota would be increased on the basis of the estimated population as on October 1, 1986.

With the announcement of the sugar policy for the Seventh Plan period, licensing of new units and expansion of the existing ones was expected to commence shortly. The Minister said the current year's production was likely to be more than the production in 1985-86 (October to September) which at seven million tonnes was 14 per cent over that of the preceding year. Pressure had been brought to bear on the

sugar units to pay the cane price arrears and as a result about Rs 1670 crores had been paid during 1985-86. The balance of Rs 10 crores representing 0.6 per cent of the total arrears was the lowest in the last ten years.

Emphasising the need for the growth of a strong responsible, disciplined and enlightened consumer movement, Mr Bhagat said the Government's commitment to the cause of consumer protection was expressed in the Consumer Protection Bill passed in the last session of Parliament. Amendments had also been made in the existing laws to enforce the rights of the consumers and consumer organisations to file complaints. Rules, prescribing the mode and manner of redressal of grievances were being framed and were expected to be ready shortly. The State Governments had also been given guidelines to set up district level forums and State level commissions and to take steps to promote a voluntary consumer movement at the grassroots level. Mr Bhagat said women should be actively involved in these bodies.

As part of the efforts to bring about standardisation and enforce quality control, the Indian Standards Institute (which till now had been a registered society) was to be converted into a statutory corporation. The relevant regulations were also being changed so that not only officials but even common citizens could bring complaints against violations of the consumer protection laws. Not only would the violators of these laws face punishment and fine but they would also be liable to pay compensation.

Efforts had also been made to strengthen the public distribution system. More than 6,500 fair price shops, 75 per cent of them in the rural areas had been opened in the first ten months of 1986. For far-flung and inaccessible areas, mobile vans had been introduced and about Rs 114 lakhs had been given to seven States where 62 such vans had been purchased.

/13104
CSO: 4600/1362

FORMER CONGRESS-I MEMBERS FORM NEW POLITICAL PARTY

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 7 Jan 87 p 1

[Text] Former and rebel Congressmen at a 'convention' in the Capital on Tuesday formed a "National Socialist Congress" as an "alternative" to the Congress with an avowed objective of "bringing the curtain down" on the Rajiv Gandhi regime.

The convention, attended by about 5,000 delegates from Delhi and adjoining States, elected by voice vote former Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee as the president of the newly-floated party, and adopted a six-page declaration spelling out 16-point programme "in accordance with the true ideals and principles of the Indian National Congress".

The declaration, among other things, sought agriculture to be made the hub of economic planning and investments in allied sectors, implementation of land reforms and remunerative prices for agricultural produce, social ownership of the means of production and distribution, at least one assured employment per household, new policy to deal with growing 'sickness' of textile, jute and engineering units, making cottage, village and small industries economically self-reliant.

It has also sought 100 per cent literacy target by turn of the century, serious efforts for educational and economic advancement of backward classes, adequate social security for the old, infirm, disabled and the unemployed, setting up of "citizens defence corps" to protect the minorities, the Scheduled Castes and Tribes, and adequate compensation to all victims of riots.

The declaration called for evolution of a machinery through which grievances and special problems of various religious, ethnic, linguistic and other

groups could be solved, and implementation of State Reorganisation Commission, pending institutional arrangements for reviewing Centre-State relations.

In a sharp attack on the Congress Government, the declaration blamed what it termed the "greatest crisis since independence" on the "abject failure" of the leadership, which it held was "ideologically and intellectually bankrupt, feudal and obscurantist in social thinking, pro-capitalist and anti-people in economic policies, and decidedly rightist". Alleging that retrograde policies were leading the country to political dismemberment, economic bankruptcy and social disharmony, the declaration said the leadership has been destroying the democratic base and institutional framework of the Indian National Congress.

The declaration attacked the series of accords concluded by the Centre over the last two years, and said the policies had strengthened the hands of fundamentalists, terrorists, secessionists and political adventurists. The result of the accords has been 'near elimination' of the Congress as a political party in Punjab, Assam, Mizoram and other States".

Clearly bearing the stamp of Mr Mukherjee, the declaration found several faults with the national economic policies, and said the new Government "believes in privatisation and gives indulgence to free market forces". Ad hocism not planning, laissez faire not control and regulation "are the cornerstones of economic policy", and priorities are all wrong, the declaration said.

The situation, it observed, "stems from the profound ignorance of the new leaders" and the country's political and social history and its problems.

The leadership's decisions "are basically class-oriented and class motivated".

It was "imperative to consolidate all like-minded people and forces to provide a national alternative to the neo-fascist oligarchy that has temporarily taken control of seat of power in Delhi", the declaration said.

Mr Pranab Mukherjee, who was expelled from the Congress for anti-party activities, was equally scathing in his attack of the party leadership, and said 'unrestrained power, with no checks and balance, concentrated in the hands of one individual, makes a mockery of our parliamentary system" and that the Congress was rapidly disintegrating.

Though he lamented the death of democracy within the Congress, curiously, he did not mention 'democracy' in the context of his own new party. It was also ironical that Mr Mukherjee who started with a call "No liquidation of party, no dilution of ideology, put the Congress back on the rails", was himself speaking as the president of the newly floated party.

Several of former and rebel Congress leaders and members, including Mr Gundu Rao, Mr F M Khan, Mr S S Monapatra, Mr Mayapati Tripathi, Mr Ashok Bhattacharya, Mr Jambuwantrao Dhole, and Mr Sisir Bose, who has not yet been formally expelled from the Congress, addressed the daylong convention.

Mr Gundu Rao announced that the new party, which was formed to save the Congress culture and the organisation, would contest all the 500-odd Lok Sabha seats in the next parliamentary poll against the Congress. State and district units of the new party would be set up soon.

/13104
CSO: 4600/1359

BRIEFS

TRADE WTTH ROK--With Indian shipments to South Korea growing a record 23 per cent this year, the Seoul Government has called for an expansion of bilateral economic ties. Industry Minister Rha Wong-Bae, during talks with Indian ambassador Sudhir T Devarhave, is understood to have stressed the need for closer and wider economic ties with Asian nations. Against South Korea's shipments of \$358 million, India exported to Seoul by the end of October this year goods worth \$105 million, up from about \$85 million during this period last year. According to an official estimate, Indian imports may reach about \$130 million by the year end. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 27 Dec 86 p 9] /13104

INDO-GDR TRADE--GDR ambassador in India Dr Berd Biedermann today said the trade turnover between India and his country was expected to reach a new mark of Rs 500 crore during 1987, as against Rs 420 crore this year. Talking to newsmen here, Dr Biedermann said there were about 30 collaborative agreements between the two countries this year as against 25 last year. He said his country was offering high technology to India. Dr Biedermann denied a press report that power generation sets manufactured by his country were not of high quality and said they were as good as those of Japan. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 26 Dec 86 p 9] /13104

TALKS WITH BANGLADESH--India and Bangladesh today agreed to step up vigil on the border to curb illegal entry and smuggling, which were affecting the economy of both the countries. A spokesman of the Border Security Force told newsmen that a consensus was reached in this regard during the border talks with the Bangladesh rifles (BDR), which concluded their three-day BSF-BDR cooperation meeting here today. The spokesman, however, said the question of various issues relating to enclaves did not come up for discussion at the meeting. The next meeting would be held in Bangladesh, the spokesman added. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 25 Dec 86 p 6] /13104

INDO-THAI JOINT PANEL--An Indo-Thai joint commission was set up here following the visit of Foreign Minister Narayan Dutt Tiwari to discuss bilateral relations for strengthening ties between India and Thailand. The first meeting of the commission, co-chaired by foreign ministers of the two countries, will be held in Bangkok in April next year. Alternatively the commission will meet once a year at the two capitals. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 24 Dec 86 p 9] /13104

DEATH OF AMBASSADOR--Dr Alfred Vaz, India's ambassador to Mozambique, died on Saturday last in Maputo after a brief illness. He was 53, reports UNI. The Indian Foreign Service Officers' Association on Monday held a meeting to condole the death of Mr Vaz who earlier has been India's ambassador to DPR Korea, Madagascar and Colombia. Minister of State for External Affairs Natwar Singh also joined. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 23 Dec 86 p 1] /13104

FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER--The French Foreign Minister, Mr Jean-Bernard Raimond, is scheduled to make an official visit to India in March this year, reports UNI. According to official sources, Mr Raimond, during his visit, is expected to finalize and announce a new framework for Indo-French political, economic and cultural co-operation. The groundwork for the French Foreign Minister's visit was done by the French Foreign Trade Minister, Mr Michael Noir, when he visited New Delhi last month. Mr Raimond's forthcoming visit to India by a Cabinet-ranking Minister in the 10-month-old Government of Mr Jacques Chirac. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 6 Jan 87 p 5] /13104

RAJ NARAIN DIES--The veteran Socialist leader, Mr Raj Narain, died late tonight at the Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital here, reports UNI. Mr Raj Narain was admitted to the hospital on Sunday after a heart attack. His condition continued to be grave and he died, at midnight, doctors attending on him said. Mr. Narain's body would be kept at 207. A block near Safdarjang airport here to enable people to pay their respects and will be taken to Varanasi in the evening. The cremation will take place on January 1. He was 69. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 31 Dec 86 p 1] /13104

CHINESE COMMUNISTS' VISIT--The six-member delegation of the International Liaison Department of the central committee of the Communist Party of China, now touring India, paid a visit to the West Bengal State headquarters of the CPI (M) at Alimuddin Street on Friday morning. Mr Saroj Mukherjee, secretary of the State committee of the CPI (M), and other members of the party secretariat received the delegation. At a meeting between leaders of the two sides, the question of strengthening ties between the CPC and the CPI (M) was discussed. Souvenirs and gifts were exchanged by the leaders of the two Communist parties. A spokesman of the CPI (M) said that Mr Saroj Mukherjee narrated to the delegation the experience of the Left Front Government in carrying out a unique experiment using the concept of Marxism-Leninism in West Bengal. The delegation reportedly evinced keen interest in the subject. Led by Mr Jian Guanhua, deputy head of the International Liaison Department of the central committee of the CPC, the delegation also visited the office of the CITU and the Kisan Sabha--the labour and peasant wings, respectively, of the CPI (M). The CPC delegation is visiting India at the invitation of the central committee of the CPI (M). [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 27 Dec 86 p 16] /13104

TEAM IN ANTARCTICA--The 90-member sixth Indian scientific expedition to Antarctica landed on the icy continent last night. Dr A. H. Parulkar, leader of the expedition, informed the control room at the Department of Ocean Development here today that on arrival, the team was greeted by the members of India's permanent station at Dakshin Gangotri. The members of the wintering team who have completed their year-long stay at the icy continent tasted green vegetables taken from India by the sixth expedition. They also received messages from their home. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 23

RUPEE-RUBLE EXCHANGE--The Soviet Government has been pressing for an upward revision of the rouble-rupee exchange rate based on the prevailing international currency quotations and gold prices. The present rate of roughly Rs 14 a rouble was fixed in 1978 after protracted negotiations, but since then the rupee value in terms of the U.S. dollar and other major world currencies has declined by more than 35 per cent. The Soviet Union wants the new rate to be fixed at not less than Rs. 18 reflecting its present international value, forgetting that the artificially fixed rouble rate is not accepted on the world money markets. Consequently, most of Soviet trade with Western countries is conducted in hard currencies since roubles are not acceptable to them. Soviet officials raised the subject on the eve of Mr. Gorbachev's visit, but agreed to defer it for some time since neither Government wanted any controversial issue to mar the friendly atmosphere on that occasion. But before the next annual trade plans and other payment questions are settled, the Soviet Union wants to resolve this problem. The Government of India has not declined to revise the old rate but is anxious to fix the new one after a very careful study of the Indo-Soviet trading patterns in future. Any hasty or one-sided decision taken before proper norms are evolved for determining the real rouble value in terms of its international purchasing power could adversely affect India's economy in view of the wide-ranging economic relationship with the Soviet Union. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 22 Dec 86 p 9] /13104

ANDHRA PRADESH ELECTIONS--The Andhra Pradesh governor, Ms Kumudben Joshi, has announced that elections to panchayat mandals and local bodies will be held in March. Addressing the state Assembly today, Mrs Joshi said the government was committed to decentralisation by strengthening local bodies. Under the Andhra Pradesh AP Mandal Praja Parishad, Zilla Praja Parishad and Zilla Pranalika Abhivrudhi Mandals Act of 1986, the 330 existing panchayat samitis will be replaced by 1,100 mandal praja parishads covering 25 villages, each with a populations of 37,000. The mandal panchayat elections are being held two years after the state Assembly elections. The mandal praja parishad will be treated as a single panchayat development unit with facilities like primary health centres, high schools, veterinary hospitals, cooperative banks, police stations, godowns and sub-treasuries. Mrs Joshi said the government was keen on introducing modern office aids and automation to speed up decision making. [Text] [Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 6 Jan 87 p 5] /13104

NORWAY TAXATION PACT--A convention for avoidance of double taxation between India and Norway has been signed here yesterday. This will replace the existing agreement entered into in 1959. Mr C.K. Tikku, chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and ex-officio additional secretary to the government of India signed on behalf of the government of India and Mr Kaare Dashlen, ambassador, Royal Norwegian Embassy, signed on behalf of Norway. The new convention lays greater emphasis on the principle of source taxation. It incorporates the changes in our tax laws in relation to taxation of investment incomes. It also restricts allowance of head office administrative expenses of Norwegian enterprises in India to limits laid down in our law. The avoidance of double taxation pursuant of the signing of this convention will encourage free flow of technology between the two countries as well as investment flow of technology between the two countries as well as investment flows. After the convention comes into force, the enterprise of one country

interest will also be taxed at concessional rates, under this convention. The new convention will come into force only after the two governments notify each other that requisite procedures in this regard have been completed and shall have effect in respect of income arising in India from April 1, 1987 and in Norway in respect of income arising from January 1, 1987. [Text] [Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 2 Jan 87 p 6] /13104

GODAVARI GAS FIND--Gas has been struck in an off-shore well in the Godavari basin. The well, located about 10km off the coast, yielded gas at the rate of 98,000 cubic metres per day during testing yesterday, the Oil and Natural Gas Commission said today. The well was drilled to a depth of 3002m and the gas horizon was between 2885 and 2889m. The well is under observation and further testing is in progress, according to a spokesman of the ONGC. [Text] [Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 1 Jan 87 p 1] /13104

RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY--The Centre has set up a Renewable Energy Development Agency to promote greater utilisation of new and renewable sources of energy. The Chairman of the Agency will be the Secretary, Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Mr. Maheshwar Dayal. Representatives from the Ministry of Finance, Planning Commission, Rural Electrification Corporation, Central Electricity Authority and the Industrial Development Bank of India will be on its Board. The Agency will primarily give soft term loans to industry as well as individual users for the manufacture and adoption of various systems and devices. It will have a share capital of Rs. 10 crores for the Seventh Plan period and Rs. 2 crores has been allotted for the current year. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 5 Jan 87 p 6] /13104

PAKISTAN FISHING VESSELS--Official sources today denied reports from Karachi alleging that Indian naval boats had intruded into Pakistan territorial waters in November. The sources, however, confirmed that some Pakistani fishing vessels along with their crew were seized while poaching well within India's territorial waters. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 31 Dec 86 p 3] /13104

INDO-BANGLADESH REPATRIATION PACT--An agreement has been signed between the district magistrate of south Tripura and the deputy commissioner of Khagrachari, in the Chittagong hill tracts of Bangladesh, for the repatriation of tribal refugees, mostly Chakmas. According to the agreement, signed yesterday at Sabrun in southern Tripura, the return movement of the refugees will begin on January 15. They will journey through three points at the rate of 100 families per day. Bangladesh has agreed to take 24,353 of the estimated 29,000 tribals who have entered India since April 29 this year. They are currently sheltered in six camps in Tripura. The Bangladesh delegation proposed that a team of officials of the Tripura government and Border Security Force (BSF) and eight members of a tribal delegation from the camps visit the tribal areas of Khagrachari. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 31 Dec 86 p 1] /13104

POLISARIO EMBASSY--An Embassy of the Saharwi Arab Democratic Republic has opened here, a spokesman for the Polisario Liberation Front said today, reports UNI. This follows India's recognition of the Polisario Liberation Front, which is battling Morocco for the independence of Spanish-speaking Sahara. The embassy opened some 10 days ago.

KHOMEINI'S SON ADVOCATES RESTORATION OF TIES WITH U.S.

London KEYHAN in Persian 8 Jan 87 p 6

[London KEYHAN weekly in Persian; founder and publisher Dr Mesbahzadeh]

[Text] AL SHIRAA weekly, Lebanon, in its recent issue disclosed that Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni, son of Ayatollah Khomeyni is one of the moderates in the Islamic regime who is interested in the restoration of diplomatic relations with the United States.

AL SHIRAA did not reveal how it acquired this news and to what extent Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni, who once headed the group of occupiers of the American Embassy in Tehran, was considered to be a moderate and how deeply he is interested in restoring diplomatic relations with the United States.

But what is certain in AL SHIRAA's news is not baseless. This weekly magazine, which is believed to be getting its first-hand information from the sources within the Syrian Foreign Ministry, is the same publication which for the first time disclosed the secret arms deals between the Islamic Republic and the United States, and as they say, brought to light the wheelings and dealings of Colonel North and Rafsanjani and created the scandal of "Iranagate" in the United States.

Hasan Sabra, editor of AL SHIRAA some time after the disclosure announced that he had received the information about the secret relations between Iran and the United States through channels associated with Montazeri and as a result of this disclosure he caused the arrest of Mehdi Hashemi, who was in charge of the Relief Office for the Islamic Liberation Movements and at the same time he tried to exonerate Syria which was accused of placing the information at his disposal.

Considering the fact that AL SHIRAA's previous news regarding the secret relations between Iran and the United States was correct, one would surmise that this news about Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni would also be correct and if AL SHIRAA has not received it through Syrian channels, it would most certainly have gotten it through a channel of the ruling Islamic officials. The probable correctness of AL SHIRAA's news reveals not only one but several realities:

- 1- The confusion and disarray within the ranks of the Islamic Republic has reached such a level that Ahmad Khomeyni, who seven years ago tried to present himself as the leader of the most radical anti-imperialism and anti-United States Islamic factions, now is becoming fearful of the final outcome of the Islamic Republic

and is trying--at a time when his father is seriously sick--to become a moderate, perhaps to come to terms with the United States and as Ayatollah Montazeri puts it: Save the "Royal Republic." It is for this reason that he joined hands with Hashemi Rafsanjani, who at the Friday prayers openly declared himself a moderate, and together persuaded Khomeyni to support them against the opponents.

2- The opponents of the restoration of relations with the United States within the ranks of the ruling body of the Islamic Republic--including Mir Hoseyn Musavi, prime minister--have not been subdued so far by the political maneuverings of the moderate elements and continue their resistance. Those individuals who provided the news about Ahmad Khomeyni's tendency to become a moderate to the weekly magazine AL SHIRAA, are certainly not his friends. Yet, they may not be Syria's friends either, and perhaps with the publication of this news AL SHIRAA has tried to strengthen Ahmad Khomeyni's position as a moderate and at the same time weaken the posture of his opponents who could also be Syria's opponents as well. If the Islamic Republic needs Syria to escape isolation, likewise Syria stands in need of a moderate Islamic Republic where Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni and Hashemi Rafsanjani are trying to present themselves as the standard-bearers of such a regime. With the publication of this news about Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, AL SHIRAA in reality tries to introduce him as the political successor of the imam to the West--particularly Europe--and yet this tactical maneuver of Damascus will not be inconsistent with the theocratic rulership of Montazeri.

Here it should be mentioned that in the same week when AL SHIRAA came out with the news about Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni's disposition as a moderate, U.S. NEWSWEEK also published an article by Reza Alavi and touched upon the positive remarks of this Persian writer about Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni together with a photo of Reza Alavi.

In this article Reza Alavi rationalized that traditionally speaking, Iran has been a monarchy and Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni seems to be the most suitable individual to be chosen as a monarch after the death of Khomeyni. And such an appointment/selection in the Third World countries with deep religious roots is not unprecedented: after Mrs Gandhi, his son was elected president in India.

Apparently after the disclosure of the wheelings and dealings between the United States and the officials of the Islamic Republic, being a moderate has become fashionable, although it is possible that it is not Islamic, but it could be considered to follow the line of the imam. If the situation continues like this, it is very probable that other people like Lajvari, Khalkhali, Mohammad Guilani and all the individuals who used to hang "revolutionary-hang" our young boys and girls at every corner of the city of Tehran, will come out and say we are moderates too. When people like Kianuri, Tabari and Beha'zin admit to their past mistakes and declare the line of the imam as the righteous line of the righteous Islam, then not only Khalkhali and Lajvardi can become moderates, but likewise Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni's decision to turn moderate should not surprise us at all.

AHMAD KHOMEINI TO BECOME CENTRAL FIGURE

London KEYHAN in Persian 8 Jan 87 pp 1, 11

[London KEYHAN weekly in Persian; founder and publisher Dr Mesbahzadeh]

[Text] The two sequestered newspapers: ETELA'AT and KEYHAN of Tehran were put at the disposal of imam Khomeyni's Office. On Friday 12 of Dey [Jan 2], Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, son of Ayatollah Khomeyni announced that hereafter these two newspapers will be operated under the direct supervision of the Ayatollah Khomeyni's Office. Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni announced that this decision was reached according to the order of Ayatollah Khomeyni and at the request of the appointed officials of these two publishing institutions.

It is said in Tehran that this decision was initially made by Hashemi Rafsanjani and Ahmad Khomeyni and after an exchange of opinions, these two people came to the conclusion that it is better that Ahmad Khomeyni announce the news and make clear that the decision had been reached by Ayatollah Khomeyni.

The transfer of the control and censorship of these two sequestered newspapers to the Office of Ayatollah Khomeyni shows that Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni is gaining more and more power each and every passing day in the internal political arena of the Islamic Republic, and that he and Hashemi Rafsanjani will gradually gain control of all the pillars of the government.

At present, Hashemi Rafsanjani, through the medium of his brother Mohammad Hashemi, chief of Radio-Television Organization, has control and supervision over this propaganda and publicity organ. This is not the first time that Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni announced a news and made clear that the order had been issued by Ayatollah Khomeyni. Last week Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni also announced that according to an order from Khomeyni, Dr Marandi was appointed a member of the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution.

It is rumored in Tehran that with the new revelations about Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni's prominence within the top-ranking officials of the Islamic Republic, we should expect many changes in the next few months. Probably these changes will be inevitable and that is why Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni was obliged to enter the arena personally and exert his influence.

entered Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni in the political arena to act as his scapegoat. He is quite sure that when a decision is announced by Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, no one dares to attack him.

The prominence of Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni to the top ranks of the political arena can also be interpreted in another way, namely since Khomeyni is seriously ill, his successors--with Hashemi Rafsanjani at their head--are trying to prepare the ground for their own future rule and disown their competitors in all actuality and possibility.

With the sequestration of the two Tehran newspapers of KEYHAN and ETELA'AT, the censorship of the press will intensify. Knowledgeable sources in Tehran say that the Islamic Republic is pregnant with new events and that Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni and Hashemi Rafsanjani in order to make sure for the next few months when the imminent events come to pass have decided to sequester these papers so as to retain their control over the circumstances.

There is no clear answer as to what will these events will be; however, it is quite clear by now that Hashemi Rafsanjani and Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni with the assistance of Mohsen Rafiqdust and Seyyed Sadeq Tabataba'i, member of the imam's confidant clique, are gradually driving out their competitors one by one from the political arena and secure their own position for the future. The goal of Hashemi Rafsanjani and Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni who are trying to present themselves as moderates these days, is to bring about a moderate government in the country.

Yet it is not clear what the role of Hoseyn-Ali Montazeri will be, or whether after the death of Khomeyni, he [Montazeri] will be ready to play the game of Hashemi Rafsanjani and associates or not? Knowledgeable sources in Tehran state that it seems improbable after the incident of Mehdi Hashemi, Ayatollah Montazeri will agree to cooperate with Hashemi Rafsanjani.

12719

CSO: 4640/64

POWER STRUGGLE BEHIND MEHDI HASHEMI'S ARREST

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Dec 86 pp 8-9

[Article by Dr 'Ali Nuri- Zadeh: "The Man Who Exposed the Imam"]

[Text] Mehdi Hashemi, brother of Ayatollah Montazeri's son-in-law and the man believed to be the founder of the terrorist empire in the world, is said to be an admirer of Hasan al-Sabbah, leader of the al-Hashashin [i.e., hashish addicts] Group. He is also said to have flaunted this admiration during his tenure as chief of the liberation organizations and the movements department and thereafter, namely during the last 3 years Hashemi spent in the capital of his empire, Falavarjan, a small city south of Isfahan.

From this small city, Hashemi used to send his followers to the north and south of Iran and to the east and west of the globe. It is noteworthy that he used to employ the same tactic Hasan al-Sabbah had used in his dealings with the Seljuks and their minister, Nizam al-Mulk al-Tusi. Hashemi used to send threat letters to the "Nizam al-Mulk" of Imam al-Khomeyni, Hashemi Rafsanjani to wit, warning him against espousing a defeatist policy toward the West. Likewise, Hashemi used to send letters of courtship to Hojjatol-Eslam Khamene'i, president of the republic, praising his steps aimed at purging the revolutionary theatre of charlatans.

In recent years, Hashemi has been able to use this policy successfully. By virtue of his family relations with Ayatollah Montazeri, and through money he has received through his brother Hadi Hashemi, who runs Montazeri's Office of the Presidency, Hashemi has spread his authority over Isfahan, Qom and Iran's southern provinces. His followers used to perceive him as a slave views his master, but the way Hashemi used to treat his followers has not been brought out as yet: what he offered them and how he motivated them to carry out the "master's" orders. Hashemi has enjoyed this title ever since he assassinated Ayatollah Shamsabadi personally at the suggestion of Montazeri because of the latter's opposition to the deviationist ideas on the issue of martyrdom Hashemi used to promote in behalf of Imam al-Khomeyni and Ayatollah Montazeri before the revolution (see AL-DUSTUR, issue 452).

the Islamic Amal organization in Lebanon and a graduate of his school of terrorism, as a rock in Mount 'Amil, appear on the Iranian TV screen 17 days ago to confess to all the crimes attributed to him? And was Hashemi's commission of said crimes unknown to Ayatollah al-Khomeyni and to the eye of his eye, Rafsanjani?

Let us begin with the story of Hashemi's arrest and those who were behind it. We must first go back to last October 26, the day the telephone rang in the office of Mr Hasan Sabra, editor-in-chief of the Lebanese AL-SHIR'A' magazine. The account, as related by an AL-SHIR'A' magazine editor who witnessed personally the meeting that took place in Hasan Sabra's office, one hour after a telephone conversation with the man who asked to meet with him, indicates that 2 am in the morning last October 26, Shaykh Esma'il Khaleq, Ayatollah Montazeri's representative in Lebanon and a leader of the Muslim Ulemas Grouping Movement, contacted Mr Hasan Sabra asking for a meeting to deliver an urgent message he had received from their mutual friend in Qom, Hadi Hashemi, the son-in-law of Ayatollah Montazeri and brother of Mahdi Hashemi.

It is common knowledge that Mr Hasan Sabra, who visited Iran during the revolution and saw for himself Imam al-Khomeyni's ascension to power, established close relations with some of the leading personalities of the revolution. I still remember the day he visited me in my office at the OMID-E IRAN magazine with his friend, Yunis, and we all went to al-Khomeyni's house.

There Sabra met Ayatollah Montazeri and his son-in-law Hadi and other members of his entourage for the first time. Although Hasan Sabra has lost hope in the Iranian revolution and is convinced that al-Khomeyni is no replacement for 'Abd-al-Nasir, his contacts with the Montazeri camp have been maintained. Hadi Hashemi, son-in-law of Montazeri, was circulating at will news and special reports on what was going on in Iran, in defiance of the opponents of the "awaited heir apparent." In view of the uninterrupted flow of information on events in Iran to the office of Hasan Sabra from the Montazeri camp, the call made by Montazeri's representative in Lebanon to AL-SHIR'A' magazine was nothing exceptional. Indeed, Shaykh Esma'il Khaleq's visit to AL-SHIR'A' magazine is very normal.

At 4:30 pm on the same day of 26 October Shaykh Esma'il Khaleq arrived at Hasan Sabra's office located on the third floor of a modest building in al-Musaytibah area, and the two men, Khulayq and Sabra, talked for 2 hours. Khulayq apprised Sabra of information he had received from Hadi Hashemi about Rafsanjani's contacts with America and Israel and about the talks Robert McFarlane, former NSC advisor to the president, had held in Tehran with Rafsanjani in the presence of an Israeli representative.

According to the aforementioned AL-SHIR'A' editor, Hasan Sabra was amazed by the gravity of the information he had heard from Shaykh Esma'il Khaleq and questioned its credibility. When the latter left his office, he lifted the phone's receiver and asked a friend of his at the telephone office to dial a number in Tehran. Thirty minutes later, the call came through and Hasan Sabra talked with Dr Mohamed Ali Hadi-Najafabadi, deputy of the defense committee of the Islamic Shura Council whose name Esma'il Khaleq had mentioned in his

discussion saying that he had participated in Rafsanjani's talks with McFarlane as an interpreter.

Hasan Sabra asked him whether his information about the Iranian-American contacts was true.

And it appears, still quoting the AL-SHIR'A editor, that Hadi-Najafabadi tried to vindicate himself for he did not deny the contacts, but told Hasan Sabra that his role in them was insignificant.

On the eve of 26 October, Hasan Sabra, through a family member who is a Lebanese army officer with close ties to Syrian Brigadier Ghazi Kan'an got in touch with Syrian intelligence in Beirut to consult with the Syrians on the matter of publishing the information he had received from Tehran.

Four days later, he received the Syrian reply which was not only encouraging, but contained as well other information about the American-Israeli arms deals with Iran, of which Syria had been fully aware for 2 years. On the second of November, 2 days before the Iranian government celebrated the 8th anniversary of the occupation of the American embassy in Tehran, AL-SHIR'A came out with a report about the power struggle in Iran, alluding to the fact that Rafsanjani wanted to monopolize power and that he had been involved in secret contacts with Washington.

What happened after AL-SHIR'A was issued is common knowledge. According to statements by an informed Iranian source, the Rafsanjani faction decided to get rid of Mehdi Hashemi following the huge demonstration the Hashemi group staged opposed al-Istiqbal Hotel, where the American delegation was staying, against the faction that wanted to bargain with the great Satan. Rafsanjani, however, was unable to carry out the plan of Hashemi's arrest with ease, so he prepared a deliberate scheme that took several weeks to plan through which he obtained al-Khomeyni's approval of his scheme.

When the Revolutionary Guard arrested Hashemi and a number of his followers in mid-October, he sent a letter from prison to his brother, Hadi, asking him to explain to his friend, Hasan Sabra in Beirut, the background of his arrest. Hashemi thus retaliated against Rafsanjani although he was behind bars.

The same Iranian source points out that Rafsanjani placed Hashemi at the disposal of a group called in Iran "the Satan Group" which is a small band of Revolutionary Guards who torture inmates at Evin prison and about whom incredible stories are told. The Satan Group, in less than 3 weeks, succeeded in turning tough Hashemi into a weak, broken man. He appeared on Iranian TV, saying with tears in his eyes, "Yes, I have issued critical and misleading fabricated leaflets against the government and the leaders of the revolution, taking advantage of my brother's position as director of the office of Ayatollah Montazeri to gain approval for my plans and projects. I would like to express the strong sense of shame I feel toward my actions that constitute a gross deviation from Imam al-Khomeyni's course."

The Iranian source concluded by saying: "The supporters of Mehdi Hashemi know that their 'patron' did not speak of his own will on the screen. Hashemi

followers began taking the necessary steps to implement their plan against the 'shaykh's' jailers. The first thing they did was to issue a statement in Beirut in the name of the 'Islamic Revolution's partisans,' attacking those who met with McFarlane and arrested Hashemi, two Islamic Shura Council members, four seminary teachers in Qom and a group of Revolutionary Guard leaders.

"It seems that the second step of Hashemi's followers will not be limited to issuing statements, but is likely to contain a include assassinations in the fashion Iran experienced during the days of the al-Hashashin group leader, the chief of the mountain, Hasan al-Sabbah."

12502

CSO: 5600/10

IRAN

BRIEFS

POLITICAL REFUGEE ASSASSINATED--An Iranian political refugee was assassinated in Athens yesterday while on his way to a nightclub. Police ruled out political motives behind the assassination of Musa Ghabadi (age 30). [Text] [Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 4 Jan 87 p 19] 12502

CSO: 5600/10

FOREIGN AIRLINES SAID PLANNING CUTS

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES (COMMERCE supplement) in English 9 Jan 87 p 1

[Text] KARACHI. Jan 8. Foreign airlines are planning to drastically reduce the frequency of their services through Pakistan, a spokesman of the Foreign Airlines Association told the Pakistan Times here today.

The reason, he clarified is, high cost of aviation fuel available in Pakistan which makes their operations uneconomical.

The cost of aviation fuel here is 1.54 dollars whereas anywhere in the Middle East it is available between 45 to 60 cents. Even in India it costs about a dollar, he said.

It is purely because of economic reasons that airlines like, Pan Am, British Airways, Lufthansa and KLM were now planning to reschedule all their east bound and west bound flights via Karachi.

This would mean that the frequency of their flights through Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad would be reduced to the barest minimum.

As an alternate to Karachi, these airlines are planning to use Dubai where not only aviation fuel is available between 45 to 60 cents a gallon but the facilities are also better.

Moreover, the increase in the landing and housing charges by the Civil Aviation Authority — CAA — has further compounded the situation and made things difficult for the foreign carriers.

Although the spokesman agreed that the CAA facilities are now much improved as compared to India but he said the load factor offsets this improvement. The load available from Pakistan is less as compared to what is available from neighbouring countries, he said.

He regretted that despite the best efforts of the foreign carriers to convince the concerned authorities about the problems and difficulties being faced by them because of the high rate of aviation fuel, nobody seems interested in looking at this issue objectively.

He said that in case foreign carriers finally decide to shift their main base to Dubai, it will be a big setback for Pakistan which will loose a big amount of foreign exchange and tourist trade.

The spokesman said under the existing circumstances the foreign airlines do not find it viable to maintain or increase the frequency of their services.

/13104

CSO: 4600/113

FINANCE MINISTER ON PROVINCES' SHARE IN POWER PROFITS

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 20 Jan 87 pp 1, 8

[Text] ISLAMABAD. Jan 19: Finance Minister Mian Muhammad Yasin Wattas told the Senate during the question-hour today that the Federal Government was working out the details of a formula which would enable it to share the profits of power production with the provinces concerned.

He said under the constitution, royalty by the federal government was only applicable on gas while on other resources part of the profit could only be shared.

Replies to a question by Senator Hamzo Khan Palejo, the Minister confirmed that the federal government was paying a royalty to the Baluchistan government for its gas exploitation.

The minister said that the government of Sind also received a royalty on the gas produced in Sind sector to participate in the purchase of BOC shares or the possibility of inviting overseas Pakistanis to participate in this investment, Justice Minister Wasim Sajjad replied that Burmah Oil had decided not to sell its shares to anyone for the time being.

Answering another question, the minister confirmed that the government was satisfied with the past performance of Shell International in the country. The minister denied the fact that the Shell International had been permitted to buy 40 per cent shares of Burmah Oil.

To the possible reasons for Pakistan not displaying interest in mak-

ing investment in of Burmah Oil's shares, the minister told the senate that government of Pakistan had not ruled out the possibility, saying that it has never expressed its lack of interest in the proposed option.

The Senate was told in reply to another question that there was no immediate proposal for develop from federal government. The Minister categorically stated that the constitution does not provide any mandatory obligation on the federal government for payment of royalty on crude oil to the provinces.

To a supplementary regarding profits earned by the federal government from hydro-electric stations at Tarbela and the possibility of passing them on to the province provisionally, since it is inevitably a profitable project, the minister said that the council of common interest was preparing the formula for sharing profits.

CONFIDENTIAL ACCORD

The Senate was told on behalf of the Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources that the Government of Pakistan was not aware of the terms of the confidential agreement reached between BOC and Shell

Answering a question regarding reasons for not allowing the public ment of Tunnel 4 at Tarbela for power generation by installing machine because the project would not be economically feasible until another reservoir was constructed on the Indus and more water for longer period was available for running these machines.

Wasim Sajjad who today handled the majority of questions in the Senate on behalf of ministers who have not yet been named in reply to yet another question said that 1050 villages had so far been electrified since June 1986 and a total of 3,295 employees had been appointed in Wapda since then.

WARSAK DAM. Another question related to the same ministry was answered in the affirmative stating that the Warsak Dam was getting silted and there were no arrangements for dredging the dam. It was also confirmed that the silting of the dam was causing damage to the power turbine.

GAS REVENUE

Wasim Sajjad told the House that a revenue of Rs 1513.242 million was earned from natural gas produced in Baluchistan in 1984-85 which ran into 277647.089 MMCF of gas. During the same period, 1168927 thousand tons of coal was extracted from Baluchistan.

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CSO: 4600/115

KHANPUR DAM: MINISTER EXPLAINS DELAYS, COST INCREASES

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 20 Jan 86 p 1

[Text] ISLAMABAD, Jan 19: Justice Minister Waqar Sajjad today confirmed that the actual expenditure on Khanpur dam amounted to Rs 1,065 million while originally the dam was estimated to cost Rs 62 million.

He said the project originally envisaged to be completed within four years stretched out to 22 years. This, he said, had phenomenally augmented the administrative and construction cost of the dam.

Answering probing questions from Senator Professor Khurshid Ahmed, the Justice Minister said that though the dam transgressed significantly the cost and time which was initially planned, the matter had been reviewed at the highest level and was approved by ECNEC after a detail study of the combination of factors which led to the inflated cost and abnormal time period.

The minister said that the Prime Minister himself had directed an administrative probe into the matter to investigate the delays and to expose irregularities if any.

Elaborating, the various collaborate factors which eventually incur-

red a greater cost involving five times the original timeframe, the Minister said that the cost was triggered primarily because of increase in time period of completion. Other factors that he included the change in design as originally the water was to be used only for irrigation while later on, the dam was to cater to POF, Wah, CDA, and PIDC. The original height of the dam which was fixed at 137 feet was later altered and fixed at 167 feet. The price index at the time of planning the dam stood at 162 while near its completion it shot up to 750. The Minister said all these factors were responsible collectively in delaying the project and triggering a higher cost. He, however, assured the House that the administrative prob. if ordered by the Prime Minister, would investigate the entire affair and would hopefully expose any irregularity or inefficiency of the authority to the satisfaction of the House.

After the Minister's reply, the Chairman of the Senate, Ghulam Ishaq Khan, could be heard murmuring to himself that the clue to the delay in the Khanpur project was the lack of availability of funds as he had initiated the project when he was in the Government.

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CSO: 4600/115

GOVERNMENT URGED TO INCORPORATE AMENDMENTS IN SHARIAT BILL

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 9 Jan 87 pp 1, 12

[Text] LAHORE, Jan. 8. The Muttahida Shariat Mahaz (MSM) has called upon the Government to incorporate the amendments suggested by it in the 8th Amendment Bill failing which it would launch a country-wide movement for the acceptance of its demand.

The Mahaz has suggested addition of the following clauses in Article 2 of the Constitution:

(a) All the institutions of the Government including the legislature, judiciary, administration and functionaries like the President, Governors, Federal and Provincial Ministers would be bound to obey the dictates of Shariat. (b) Shariat would be the supreme law of Pakistan and its dictates would be binding in the event of any discrepancies with the laws of land including the Constitution, customs and practices.

The following clause should be added to Article 203-D of the Constitution. The Federal Shariat Court would consult eminent ulema on the financial laws and make it mandatory for the Government to amend these laws for bringing the same in conformity with the dictates of the holy Quran and Sunnah within 90 days.

The Muttahida Shariat Mahaz leaders said at a Press conference here this morning that Mahaz Parliamentary Group in the National Assembly had been asked to move the amendments in the 8th Amendment Bill. They

regretted that the Government was obstructing the adoption of the Shariat Bill moved by the Mahaz.

They said that no Government functionary including the President was above the law under the dictates of the Shariat. But the President, the Governors and Ministers were not accountable for their acts under Article 248 of the present Constitution. Article 45 of the Constitution gave unlimited powers to the President in respect of remittance of the sentences. He could reduce and remit the sentences of murderers and those convicted under Hadd ordinance and could alter the sentences passed even by the Supreme Court. Shariat Court could only make recommendations about amendments in laws but the Government had the power to accept and reject the recommendations. Thus the Shariat Court had been reduced to the level of an advisory council.

Maulana Muhammad Ajmal Khan, Maulana Hafiz Abu'l Qadir Ropani, Mian Muhammad Naeem, Mufti Ghulam Sarwar Qadri, Maulana Muhammad Hussain Naeemi, Maulana Fateh Muhammad, Maulana Muhammad Ijaz Qadri, Hafiz Abdur Rehman Madni, Sahibzada Abdur Rehman, Mian Fazle Haq, Mirza Abdul Hamid, Maulana Muhammad Ahmed Ghazanfar, Maulana Muhammad Usman Shamsi, Mahmud Alam Qureshi, Ismail Qureshi and Mian Shafiqur Rehman addressed the Press conference.

ADMINISTRATION STARTS LEVELING SOHRAB GOTH

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 13 Jan 86 p 3

(Text)

On the directive of Sind Chief Minister Syed Ghous Ali Shah, KDA has started levelling and dressing of 60 acres of land of which notorious Sohrab Goth bara market was located before the launching of 'clean-up' operation by Sind Government.

The area will be utilised for development of modern park and the work of levelling and dressing of vacated land has been taken in hand by KDA as a 'crash programme', so as to provide much needed recreational facilities for the people of Karachi.

For the development of the park, to be executed as an ambitious project, effluent water will be taken from KDA's sewerage plant at North Karachi completed recently with a capacity of five million gallons daily.

Meanwhile KDA Director General Z.A. Nizami, yesterday visited the area and finalized the schedule for development work of park.

He directed the accompanying chief engineers to start leveling work right from today. He said that all depressions be filled and waste material removed immediately.

The KDA has mobilised the necessary machinery at the site for leveling work. The KDA has provided an amount of Rs. 10 million for the project with immediate effect.

With the removal of bara market, the entire area gives a "clean

look" and KDA has started construction of a road parallel to the Super Highway.

Nizami said that this would be motorable five-mile long road. It would connect Super Highway opposite the former bara market and provide great relief to KDA Scheme 33.

Simultaneously the work on the duplication of Zero Mile Bridge over Lyari river was also being started with immediate effect.

The whole vacated area has been declared as an amenity plot to be utilised for a public park by Master Plan Department of KDA.

It has been decided to retain the four existing mosques in the area. These mosques would be improved and renovated by the KDA as a part of the park development project.

About 60 acres area vacated consisted of 3,450 hutments including shops. This area had a mixed population of Afghan refugees and other settlers. The Afghan refugees have been settled in tents with allied facilities in Bajar Bhatti village.

Alternate plots have been provided to other eligible shiftees in Sector 47 and Sector 30 of Scheme 33.

During the visit to the area the KDA Director General was accompanied by Director Master Plan Department S. Naim Ahmed, and all three chief engineers.—APP

PAKISTAN

KARACHI VIOLENCE: STRONG DEMANDS FOR PROBE VOICED

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 9 Jan 87 p 3

(Text) ISLAMABAD, Jan 8 Ten more Senators today called for comprehensive investigation and evaluation of the recent disturbances in Karachi, backed by swift measures for the elimination of causes of the friction, which led to the unfortunate developments, resulting in the loss of lives and damage to property.

The Senators Mr. Tariq Chaudhry, Mr. Abdur Rahim Mirdakhel, Syed Abbas Shah, Mr. Javed Jabbar, Maulana Kausar Niazi, Mr. Mohsun Siddiqi, Mr. Khizar Hayat, Mr. Mohammad Ali Hoti, Shahzada Burhanuddin and Mr. Shad Mohammad, expressed their shock over the tragic incidents, as the House resumed discussion on the law and order situation arising out of the recent unfortunate happenings in Karachi and its consequences.

They described the Karachi disturbances as a calculated intrigue, hatched by those who wished to weaken Pakistan. These forces of anarchy and hatred they demanded, should be curbed effectively, to save the country from any harm in future. They also called for immediate enforcement of Islam and Shariah to foil the evil designs of these forces.

The House suspended Question Hour and deferred Privilege and Adjournment Motions, to afford maximum time for the discussion on the Karachi disturbances.

forces, pitted against the integrity and solidarity of Pakistan and to protect the life, honour and property of the Karachi citizens. He, therefore, pleaded that there was no justification for such Governments to continue to impose themselves on the people.

Mr Abdur Rahim Mirdakhel (Baluchistan) criticised the country's intelligence agencies for their failure to sound the Government about the situation in time. He was convinced that only Islam could keep the nation united and cohesive, and, therefore demanded its immediate introduction in the country. He also proposed for preparation of an action plan to curb subversion thus ensuring the country's solidarity and survival.

Syed Abbas Shah (NWFP) described the Karachi disturbances as a "Warning and challenge" to the nation and regretted that a country, having emerged on the map of the world as a Muslim millat, was confronted with the problem of nationalities and factionalism, which hit the very roots of Pakistan, which came into being on the basis of Islamic ideology. He pleaded for urgent steps at political, administrative and public levels to promote harmony among the people of Karachi.

Mr Javed Jabbar (Sind) observed that the Government could not absolve itself of its obligations towards the people, by saying that foreign hand was

economic crisis besetting the nation as a whole. He proposed an eleven point plan to deal with the situation in Karachi, which inter alia, called for release of arrested leaders, rehabilitation of affected families, identification and punishment to the culprits, democratization of the Karachi administration, appointment of elected Chief Commissioner for Karachi, and introduction of elected S.H.O. scheme in a couple of areas on experimental basis.

Maulana Kauser Niazi (Islamabad) termed the Karachi disturbances as unparalleled in the sub-continent, in which Muslims had cut the throat of their brethren Muslims. He asserted that nine years of Martial Law rule had bred multifarious problems for the nation, including indiscriminate gunrunning, unchecked corruption, economic crisis, trends of factionalism and regionalism. The Karachi disturbances were in fact direct outcome of the "extension and expansion" of the Afghanistan problem, he said, demanding that realistic and objective Afghan policy be framed on the basis of a debate in the Parliament, which should be summoned into session immediately. He also complained of non-serious approach on the part of the Government in handling the Karachi situation.

Mr Mohsin Siddiqi (Sind) demanded that the culprits of Karachi disturbances should be identified and punished immediately, and criticised the law enforcing agencies for their failure to come to the rescue of the Karachi citizens, for six hours during which they were being killed and their property plundered indiscriminately. He proposed that checkposts should be set up on roads leading to Karachi, gunrunning should be checked, basic civic amenities be provided to the citizens of Karachi and the administrative personnel who failed to reach the scene of the tragedy in time should be punished. He also called for rehabilitation of the affected families and immediate initiation of a judicial inquiry into the tragedy.

Mr Khizar Hayat (Punjab) Sind that the Karachi tragedy had

disturbances to the machination of those elements, who did not wish to see Pakistan strong and prosperous. He called for setting up of an independent commission of judges of four High Courts under the chairmanship of judge of the Supreme Court to look into the causes of these disturbances. He also questioned the justification of the timing of operation clean up.

Mr Mohammad Ali (NWFP) described the Karachi disturbances as a "National Tragedy" and demanded that an indepth investigation of the tragedy should be carried out. He, however, held Al-Zulfiqar organisation, protagonists of Jive Sind and confederation and international Mafia responsible for the Karachi incidents. He also pleaded for setting up of a committee comprising judges of the four High Courts and a committee of the Senate to probe into the causes, which led to killings and plunder at such a massive scale. He called for reorganization of the police in Karachi with adequate representation to all sections of citizens.

Shahzada Burhanuddin (NWFP) said that the Governor and the Chief Minister of Sind should have resigned in the wake of the Karachi disturbances. He, however, attributed the causes of the tragedy to the nation's deviation from Islam. He demanded a thorough inquiry into the incidents.

Mr Shad Mohammad (NWFP) said that a realistic solution to the causes, which led to the Karachi disturbances, should be found. The elements, who openly pleaded for disintegration of the country should be punished. He also expressed concern over the presence of arms and ammunition in colleges and universities and called for stringent measures to curb this tendency. He also appealed to the political parties to desist from such practice. He proposed that a committee of senate and the National Assembly be set up to enquire into the causes of the disturbance, and identify the culprits. The Chairman, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan then

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SE OF ETHNIC CLASHES, BASIC PHILOSOPHY OF MNM DISCUSSED

ore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 29 Nov 86 pp 1, 12

icle by Ilyas Shakir: "Who Are These Mysterious People?"]

erpts] Karachi has become the most sensitive city in the country. Many nations have joined in making this city a "battlefield." All of a sudden the peace of the city is disturbed, and a city that used to be full of life suddenly is plunged into the darkness of a curfew. Why does it happen? Who organizes these hurricanes of hate? No one knows. After each incident, some serious people are blamed. Sometimes these people come in cars and others they ride motorcycles. The managers of this city of lights have failed to find out who is responsible for these problems. These clashes and riots have also helped identify the weaknesses of the city administration. These weaknesses should be removed. Many other problems of Karachi have surfaced during these riots. Once these problems are solved, Karachi would become a peaceful city and a "heaven on earth" for the country's unemployed. Like London, people coming from other parts of the country are very important for the economy of Karachi. A change in this long-term economic system could all but save Karachi. Karachi has become a city of people from all provinces. This would not happen because of someone's desire. Cities are established and flourish according to geographical and economic needs. Cities die and become like Delhi of 300 years ago if they are not well looked after. Or they lose their central importance as Baghdad did. Today, Karachi is burning like Rome, the sad thing is that the people celebrating the burning of this city are its own sons and occupants. What will be the fate of Karachi? We cannot say at this time. We do know that the politics of hatred that has taken root in Karachi is very dangerous. Most of Karachi's citizens are "Muhajirs," but they prefer to call themselves Pakistanis or Sindhis. Most Karachi residents think that the present situation is temporary and will pass soon. Most of the Pakhs living in Karachi have managed to remain neutral in the present crisis. People are just fed up with the daily clashes. They do not want riots and curfews to become a regular part of their lives as in Beirut. At one time it was said that in Karachi people tend to forget themselves while looking for

One might answer that some problems of the city are so serious that even the busy people are shocked. Due to the lack of long-range planning, city services such as transportation, recreation, and playgrounds have deteriorated. Gardens and parks are constantly being changed into shopping centers. Some 2 to 2.5 million people are living in temporary dwellings. Hardworking laborers, the majority of whom are Pakhtoons, have no municipal facilities available in their communities. Just think, how long can a problem-ridden driver drive a car efficiently? The roads are narrow. Power黑ens drive people crazy. Education and health services are privileges of the rich now. All this has made Karachi residents very angry and emotional. There is no 'wadera' type landlord system in Karachi. The city administration cannot deal with a few 'waderas' to bring peace to the city. Karachi's bureaucracy must stop its practice of postponing things indefinitely. It must work on the same scale as Tokyo, Bombay, Calcutta, Hong Kong, and Bangkok did to solve their problems.

[In this context,] let us discuss the Muhajir National Movement (MNM), whose leadership has finally found a footing. Its line of thinking has changed with the incidents of the last 3 weeks. Altaf Hussain, the leader of the MNM, has issued a statement from behind bars. He said that his organization has no animosity toward any group, especially the Pakhtoons. According to him, he wants to attain his goals peacefully. This is a welcome change, since no movement based on hatred can be successful. It is appropriate to fight for one's rights, but involving violence in these efforts will help no one. Such a philosophy should have been disseminated before the recent riots. The MNM was in a position to take advantage of its strength. The situation, however, was too serious for any gain.

The MNM has made "Sindhi-Muhajir friendship" the goal of its politics. It may not work because the reactionary Sindhi group refuses to accept Muhajirs as a separate nationality. The voices demanding an end to the quota system are muted. The MNM has to decide now if it wants to make a strong demand for the removal of the quota system or leave it for the time being. In order to achieve a quota system based on population figures and stop the fraudulent activities, the MNM will have to get the support of all non-Sindhi people in Karachi. That will make its voice stronger and louder. The more it succeeds in getting its demands accepted, the more the youth in the cities of Sind will benefit. Sind's urban areas have become home to a mixture of various "nationalities." A communist worker belonging to the group of Jam Saqi, the leader of Sindhi farmers, has spoken about the quota system. He said that if Sind's urban population would stop opposing the quota system, he would be able to explain the facts about this system. According to him, poor Sindhis are cheated and rich Sindhis benefit from this system. In other words, his party has failed to mobilize the poor Sindhis to oppose this system because the urban areas oppose it. Over this issue, they are accused of instigating "Sindhi nationalism." The MNM and other city groups should bear this in mind when opposing the quota system. Dur-

a new movement backfires. The leadership does not know who is a genuine worker and who is just a spectator. The recent problems facing the MNM were caused by this premature popularity of the movement. The MNM came out with an eight-point formula for peace to guide its activities. It demanded, among other things, the readjustment of auto-rickshaw meters. Interestingly, this eight-point formula does not indicate the basic ideology according to which the MNM will operate. The MNM will have to analyze the 31 October crisis in Hyderabad and declare openly who are its enemies and who are its friends. It will also have to test its strength and position. And it will have to decide if it is going to fight the various factions in the country "like the Palestinians" or make peace with them. Political scientists have observed that movements are like the water from melted snow on the mountains. The water flows in the form of streams and rivers to the ocean. It does not try to move great rocks; instead, it changes direction. Not one river in the world flows in a straight line. The MNM leadership will have to study and analyze all the factors involved and decide what role its organization will play in the city politics tomorrow as well as a few months later. The leaders should remember what an Indian philosopher said, "Bad politics can hurt even a fetus."

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RESTRICTIONS ON REFUGEES DEMANDED

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 13 Jan 87 p 3

[Text] ISLAMABAD. Jan 12: Another 13 Senators today spoke on the law and order situation arising out of the recent unfortunate happenings in Karachi and its consequences, with a unanimous call for a thorough probe into the tragic mishap, to identify the root cause of the holocaust, and the culprits, involved in it.

Shirindil Niazi (NWFP) spoke of the miserable failure of the Sind government and its Intelligence agencies and demanded resignations of their chiefs. He regretted that the consequences of the clean up operations were neither comprehended nor were steps taken to avert them.

Hussain Bakhsh Bangalzai (Baluchistan) underscored the necessity of understanding the machinations of the inimical forces in their proper perspective so as to identify the measures to foil their evil designs.

He demanded that all the Sohrab Goth-type dens of narcotic and arms be smashed. Afghan refugees restricted to their camps, and a thorough probe into the disturbances by a parliamentary committee.

Qazi Abdul Latif (NWFP) said that the Karachi disturbances were not a spontaneous event and questioned the modus operandi of Operation Clean-Up with the assertion that the entire poor population of Sohrab Goth was subjected to untold miseries instead of action being taken against a few individuals, indulging in anti-social activities.

Hassan A Sheikh (Sind) regretted that the elements still to reconcile to the establishment of Pakistan, continued to masquerade as Pakistanis in the country, without any check. He demanded restrictions on such elements.

Mir Ghulam Haider Talpur (Sind) said that the conditions in Sind demanded that the situation should be handled in a political perspective, so as to avoid recurrence of such incidents.

Hamzo Khan Palejo (Sind) demanded that important government functionaries such as Chief Secretary, Commissioner, and Inspector-General of Police should be from the province of Sind. He proposed a curb on influx of population in Karachi, cancellation of non-Sindhi lands in Sind, adherence to the quota system and introduction of fresh identity cards.

Haji Akram Sultan (Punjab) strongly pleading that the crimes committed during the disturbances, should not be go unpunished, demanded a thorough probe into the tragedy by an impartial tribunal.

Brig.(Retd) Mohammad Hayat (Islamabad), attributed the disturbances to the total failure of the administration, which could not comprehend the possible effects of Operation Clean-Up.

Mohammed Hashim Khan (NWFP) described the Karachi disturbances as most unfortunate, particularly in view of the fact that Operation Clean-Up was a miserable failure. He suggested that narcotics pedalling should be checked at source.

ENERGY CONSERVATION COUNCIL ESTABLISHED

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES (COMMERCE supplement) in English 8 Jan 87 p I

[Text]

KARACHI Jan. 7: A high-powered Pakistan Energy Conservation Council with the Prime Minister, Mr. Mohammad Khan Junejo as patron-in-chief has been set up to render policy guidance on the formulation and implementation of national energy conservation plans and programme.

The Council will also administer the recently established permanent agency, called Pakistan Energy Conservation Centre (ENERCON) for efficient production and use of all forms of domestic or imported energy.

The Federal Minister for Planning and Development will be the Chairman of the Council and will include Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources (Co-Chairman) Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Council, Federal Secretaries and Chief Secretaries of all Provincial Governments.

The Council will co-ordinate and monitor implementation of the national energy conservation programme to be implemented by Enercon in various sub-sectors of supply and consumption of energy.

It would also direct Enercon to formulate policy programme and create national awareness for energy conservation and recommend incentives and provide technical assistance for efficient energy usage to various Federal Ministries and Provincial Governments, public sector industries and private sector establishments. —PPI

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